

A  
Serious PROPOSAL  
FOR PROMOTING  
LAWFUL and HONOURABLE  
MARRIAGE.

Address'd to the  
UNMARRIED of both SEXES.

---

THE SECOND EDITION.

---

To which is added,  
A PREFACE, together with some Alterations  
and Additions, that may possibly deserve the  
farther Attention of the Public.

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Ἐραῖος δὲ γυναῖκα τὸν ποτὶ οἶκον ἀγαθαι,  
Μηδὲ τρικλῶν ἑταῖον μάλα πολλὰ ἀπολείπαι,  
Μηδ' ἐπαθεῖς μάλα πολλὰ· γάμος δὲ τοι ὄριος ἔστος.

HESIOD. Ἔργα καὶ Ἡμέρ. V. 693.

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*An federe oportuit  
Domi Virginem tam grandem, dum cognatus hinc  
Illinc veniret, expectantem?—*

TERENT. Adelph. Act. IV. Scene v.

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L O N D O N:

Printed for the PROPRIETORS, and to be had at the  
Offices in Newcastle-Court, Temple-Bar, and St.  
Martin's-street, Leicester-fields. MDCCLI.  
[Price One Shilling]

SENIOR PROPOSAL

MAR 1861



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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T H E

# P R E F A C E.

**T**HE Reader will be pleased to observe, that the following Proposal was first published on the 15th of *February* 1749-50; at least Six Weeks before it was offer'd to be put in Execution: And, that the Honesty and Candour of our Intentions might, as we thought, sufficiently be made to appear, the Reason hereof was either hinted, or given in exprefs Terms, no less than Eight several Times in the pamphlet itself. As *vid.* P. 13, 41, 57, 58, 59, 61, 71, 73. of the first Edition.

A Project so new and extraordinary, it might easily be imagined, would excite some Curiosity and Speculation; and for this Reason it was, that before any Step was taken to put the same in Execution, the Proprietors thought it but reasonable to submit it to the public Examination and Judgment. They promised to receive all Objections with Candour, that should be so offer'd——They promised, that if the same could be shewn possibly productive of any evil Consequences whatever, they would desist from the Undertaking, and lay the whole aside——They promised that no sinister, clandestine, unlawful, or dishonourable Purposes or Practices should receive Aid, Assistance, or Countenance,

directly or indirectly, from them, or any concerned under them---They have, by the Cautions and Preventions laid down, used their utmost Endeavours to hinder and obstruct as much as possible, the least Degree of Rudeness and Indecency; Have solemnly and seriously solicited the Public for any farther Assistance and Information herein that might be thought necessary; and have more than once protested of the Sobriety, Honesty, and Integrity of their Intentions.

What more could they do? And what was the Result?--Why many Letters of Approbation were received from Persons unknown: The whole Proposal and Project thoroughly approved by the soberest and most judicious of their own private Acquaintance of both Sexes; and, before the Offices were open'd, not the least Objection heard of.

But all this, it seems, was not sufficient: For from a Quarter whence we should have least suspected such Kind of Treatment, the Author, who is by no means ashamed either of the Project or Pamphlet, would have made no scruple of frankly acknowledging both, to any sober and candid Person who had asked him, and will as yet, in due time, make a public Recognition of his being so, was, as if he had been guilty of some most heinous Offence, subtilly, artfully, and cunningly fish'd out; his Name ungenerously, not to say treacherously and perfidiously discover'd and proclaim'd; his Person rudely, contumeliously, and ignominiously vilified and  
me-

menac'd; our Intentions maligned; abused, and calumniated; and our Proposal perverted and censured, as scandalously promoting Lewdness, Incontinence, and Debauchery: And all this in so virulent and outrageous a Manner, that, were we not in its due Time to take some Notice hereof, our Silence might be interpreted our Conviction. But, as it is no Part of our present Purpose to enter into any of these Particulars, the Reader is referred for his farther Satisfaction herein, to *The Minutes and Matters relating to the Offices, &c.* which (unless any material Objection shall occur) will be published at large about *Lady-day* next.

The Reception this Proposal has in general met with, besides the Testimonies we shall publish, the Success attending it sufficiently demonstrates to any one who will be at the Trouble of examining our Lists; and which, considering its Novelty, and the thin Season of the Year wherein it was first set on foot, has exceeded our most sanguine Expectations; and there are some already, we flatter ourselves, who have so well found their Account herein, as not to have repented making the Experiment. But be this as it will, from hence we assume neither Praise nor Merit; for be it always remembered, that we hold ourselves accountable for nothing farther than the Honour, Decency, Secresy and Decorum of all those previous Matters wherein we shall be concerned, and with which, according to the Conditions we have undertaken, the Parties shall think fit to entrust us.

Ever since the Publication we have had our Ears always open, and have kept a diligent and watchful Look-out for the bare Appearance of



any reasonable Objection that might be offered to this our Plan, and, excepting one, which we apprehend of no great Consequence, but yet is submitted to the Reader's Judgment in that Part of the Pamphlet set aside for the Consideration of such Matters, nothing of this Kind has as yet occurred; but of an unreasonable Degree of Rancour, Abuse and Calumny, as hinted above, we have had our Share: And, because we would omit nothing even of this Kind wherein we could give the Reader or the Public any Satisfaction, be it known, that the List of our Calumniators, odd and heterogeneous as the Mixture may appear, was composed of the following judicious Personages, that is to say, two ———s, one Doctor of Divinity; one Petit Maître; a Bevie of Clearstarchers; two Courtezans, and an *unbang'd* Irish Gambler, who, having either *jointly* or *separately* carefully and maturely perused and ponder'd our Project, have sagaciously discovered, that our Proposal, which we have intitled *Serious*, is no such thing: That the Word *Marriage* is *Michin Malicho*, and means Lewdness and Debauchery; and that all the Cautions and Preventions laid down for the Preservation of Honour, Decency and Sobriety, is but a Face to cover a wicked, scandalous and abominable Purpose and Intention. By what new kind of Cabala this Discovery was made is as yet a Secret from us; but as soon as we are inform'd the Reader shall be sure to be made acquainted. Add to these a second-sighted *Scotch* Visionary, the Mouth of a little Ale-house Society, who meet once a-Week to discuss high and weighty Matters, and from whom we received a Letter, (which in its due Season shall make its Appearance)



ance) inviting us into an Alliance, for the better and more effectually carrying on and promoting our Undertaking, on a much more ingeniously concerted Plan, if we would have taken the Words of these *learned Projectors*, and you have a full and true Account of every Opposition we have as yet encounter'd.

At first, indeed, we did not imagine this our Plan and Proposal to have been of so formidable a Nature, nor the Discovery of the Author of so much Importance as it seems it was, till we were better inform'd by a Set of *choice* and *immaculate* Spirits, the Punity of whose Manners was so much scandalized by the Neighbourhood of our Office, as, one and all, to determine on, quitting their Houses rather than suffer themselves to have been contaminated by the Proximity--(a) and therefore a learned and judicious *Friend* of the Author's, no less eminent and conspicuous for

(a) *Note*—Till the House wherein the Lady's Register Office is now kept could be got ready, the Proprietors, that they might keep their Engagement to the Public, hired an Apartment for one Month certain, in the House of Mr. *Bell*, an *Ingraver* in *Monmouth Court*: But, on the first Day of opening the same, came a certain learned and reverend Doctor of Divinity, the Landlord, it seems, of the whole Court, and with a high Hand forbade the Board of Designation to be fixed up; threaten'd Mr. *Bell* to seize for Rent, if he fulfilled his Engagements with the Proprietors, declaring in the open Court, in the hearing of all the Neighbourhood, *O Lepidum Caput!* That he had read the Pamphlet and that our Intentions, as it appeared therefrom, was to set on Foot a lewd and scandalous Bawdy-house—Bold Man, to risque his Reputation on so perilous an Alternative as whether the Proprietors are Knaves, or he a Fool!

—*The Times have been*

*That when the Brains were out, the Man would die,*  
*And there an End—*

—But more of this in the *Minutes and Matters*, &c.

his Candour and Impartiality than Sagacity and Ingenuity, in the Trial of Evidence---

That is not Passion's Slave——

Whose Blood and Judgment are so well commingled,

That *he is* not a Pipe for Fortune's Finger  
To sound what Stop she please——

—Not in the least influenced by either Connection or Favour, but out of pure Zeal for the public Good and the Cause of Decency, Religion and Virtue, has so far condescended to interest himself in our Concerns, as to promise, *in verbo sacerdotis*, to lay this our Proposal before the Legislature: And, truly, if he will but keep his Word, we ask no greater Favour or Indulgence; for, as to any Apprehensions of what may from thence arise to ourselves, the Uprightness and conscious Innocence of our Intentions will sufficiently compensate; and as to any Consequences that may possibly affect the Scheme, we neither hope nor desire its Subsistence, or Continuance, one Moment longer than it be found conformable to Decency and good Manners: For we do again solemnly protest, that if the same be proved in the least Degree inconsistent with the strictest Rules of Honour, moral Honesty, or Christian Simplicity, we will be both ready and willing to acknowledge our Error, in as public a Manner as we have made our Address.

Before we had any Experience to allegde, it might have been thought, perhaps, that our Project was of too air-built a Nature to expect from it any Success or Encouragement: But the Numbers already registered in each of the Offices,

fices, sufficiently speak for our Introduction, and bear us ample Testimony that there are some at least of both Sexes, within the Predicament and Circumstances therein described, who neither disdain the Assistances we have proposed, nor consider the Trial and Experiment as fruitless and ineffectual; and the Necessity we find for this second Edition is to us a convincing Evidence that the First, which was no inconsiderable Impression, has had its due Examination--- But so far is the Case at present altered, that whereas our first Edition was no more than a bare Proposal of what was only *intended* to be, this second, tho' it still retains the same Title, is accommodated to the Circumstances of what actually *is*, and, as the Lawyers say, has been, ever since the 27th of *March* last, put in Ure: Yet, notwithstanding any Success or Encouragement we can pretend to boast, were the same infinitely greater than it is, we are still determined to keep our Promise, and pay all due Observance and Regard to any real or material Objection that shall be offered.

The Story we have inserted has so much of real Truth and Foundation as not to be considered as a mere Invention: For tho' some Particulars we acknowledge are heighten'd for the Reader's Amusement, yet have we therein taken no more than that kind of innocent Liberty to which every Writer may make a fair, at least an excusable Pretence; for had we not in some little Degree obscured the Relation, the Circumstances might have been more palpable and determinate than was consistent with our Honour, or the Satisfaction of the Parties concerned.



The Alterations and Additions we have made to the several Articles and Annotations, sufficiently explain themselves ; and if the Number appear but inconsiderable, the Reader is requested to place the same rather to the Account of the Barrenness and Poverty of our Invention, or Want of farther and better Information, than to any Fondness, Partiality, or incorrigible Notion conceived by us of the Compleatness of our Plan : For tho' many Objections may yet occur, and many Improvements offer ; tho' many Letters and Testimonies of Approbation have been received on one Side, and some Degree of Insult and Scurrility on the other ; still can we solemnly affirm, that nothing material has been on either Hand suggested to discourage our Undertaking, or improve its Design.

Every Circumstance relating to this our Proposal, we can now inform the Public, has had its due Experience---The Offices settled---Registrars appointed---Entries registered---The Lists inspected---Letters and Correspondencies forwarded---Interviews had---and the End of all seriously, lawfully, and honourably answered---And as on our Part we have not as yet had the least Reason to complain of any Rudeness or Indecency, so much as suspected from any Person whatever ; so the Parties, we hope, have on the other Side no Cause of Complaint against us of Failure in any Part of our Engagements.

The only personal Rudeness or Immodesty that can possibly be attempted by the most profligate and abandoned must be upon Interview ; and for the obviating any thing of this Sort, we imagine, the Cautions and Preventions we have laid down will be thoroughly effectual ; for if the local Circumstances we have appointed and pro-

promised to observe, the Character and Reputation we have required, and the Security we have taken of our Guards, and also of the Keepers and Possessors of such Houses of Interview, (for which again you are referred to the *Minutes and Matters*, &c.) be not thought sufficient for this Purpose, we protest we know of no Place where a Lady's Honour may not with equal Reason and Presumption be in Danger of Violation.

We had indeed some Thoughts of enlarging further on our Answers to the Objections already laid down, but on more mature Reflection have, for the following Reasons, determined to save ourselves and the Reader this unnecessary Trouble and Expence.

First, Because any considerable Addition hereto would enlarge the Pamphlet beyond its proper and due Price.

*Absurdum est accuratius refellere.*

Secondly, Because any thing of this Kind is rather Matter of Defence than Information, and as such reserved for any more solemn Occasion that might offer.—*That we might have somewhat to answer them, which glory in Appearance, and not in Heart.* 2 Cor. Ch. v. Ver. 12.

Thirdly, Because enough is already said to suggest sufficient Satisfaction herein to any liberal, ingenious, candid, and judicious Reader.

Τῶν Ἀνδρῶν σωφρονιστῶν ἴδιον, μὴ προλήψει δαλύνειν, μηδὲ ἰδοὺ προσδίδωσαι πειρώσεις, ἀλλὰ ζητεῖν τὴν ἀλήθειαν, καὶ τὸ χρησίμοι παύλαχοδι ἐυαγγέλιον.

Fourthly, Because if the Reader be none of these, were we to make the Addition of a Volume, we are well aware of how little Avail  
the

the same would be with either Malice, Ignorance, Prejudice or Revenge.

ὁ Λύκος τὴν τρεῖχα ὃ τὴν γνώμην ἀλλάττει.

And therefore have we only subjoined a few Observations, by way of Answer to one Objection more, if that may be so called which has neither Modesty, Truth, nor Simplicity for its Object, Morals or Religion for its Warrant or Support, nor Honesty and Sincerity for its Pretext, but claims its whole Being and Subsistence from Hypocrisy, Affectation and Imposture.

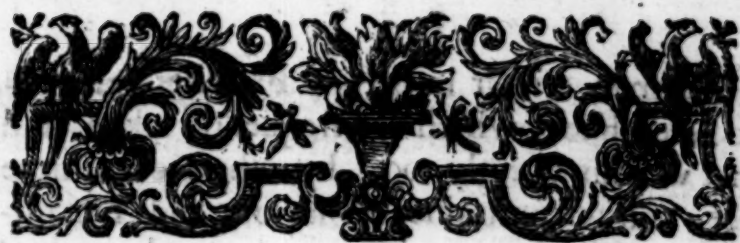
Thus far, then, by way of Preface, have we thought ourselves accountable to the Public for some Notion of the Success and Opposition this our Scheme has already met with, before we descend to any farther Particulars : But because the *Author's Friend* before-mentioned has conceived so highly of this Proposal as to think it deserving the Notice of the Government, and has so far engaged his Word for his Performance, as not to be able, according to our vulgar Notions, to recede with Honour, the Reader may possibly be induced, in a more than ordinary Manner, to awaken his Attention hereto, when he finds it a Matter of such Importance.

As to any Consequences attending the Author, the Innocency, Harmlessness, and Candour of his Declarations and Intentions, he holds as his sufficient Security : But to the Articles of *Folly, Virulence, Abuse, Rancour, Calumny, Scorn and Contempt*, he returns his Charity, Pity, and Forgiveness.

πάρ' ἑμοίγε καὶ ἄλλοι  
Οἱ κε μετιμήσουσι μάλα καὶ μητιέσῃ Ζεὺς.







A S E R I O U S  
P R O P O S A L  
F O R

Promoting and Encouraging Lawful  
and Honourable MARRIAGE.



H E R E are, we make no doubt,  
many Single Ladies, in and about  
this great City of *London*, who,  
thro' too confined an Education,  
and severe Restraint, have not  
been so properly introduced into the World as  
they ought; and have, by that means, lost  
many Advantages, in respect of Marriage,  
which others, no-ways more deserving, have,  
from a quite contrary Treatment, acquired:  
Or otherwise, from a natural Diffidence, Ti-  
midity, or Reservedness of Temper, have, since  
they have been their own Mistresses, led so re-  
tired, and reclude a manner of Life, as to have  
omitted, or denied themselves, those Oppor-  
tunities of associating, and conversing with  
B Gentle-

Gentlemen, either in private Families, or public Assemblies, which are frequently taken, and that very innocently too, by others of a more free, and unconstrained Behaviour and Disposition.—There are others again, who, thro' either *Choice* or *Necessity*, have cultivated so slender, or ill-suited an Acquaintance amongst Single Men, as not to be able, on a fair Examination of their own Hearts, seriously to approve of any one in their whole Circle, that might be inclined to make Overtures of Marriage.

It is for these then, and such as these, who are, or have been, liable to any of the forementioned Disadvantages, but who still have no Objection to the married State, could they meet with a Person to their Liking, *or are desirous to meet with any such*, that the following Proposal is calculated: And that there are many very deserving Women in this Town, in something like the Circumstances before-described, we think no one can question, who, in the common Phrase, may be said to have any Acquaintance with, or to know much of the World.

If this then be, in any degree, the Case, we persuade ourselves, that, from the grave and sober Part of Man or Womankind, no Objection can be made, or Encouragement wanting, to a Proposal whereby a Lady may, *without Reserve, without Danger to her Reputation, without Fear of Insult or Contempt, without* the



the Assistance of a Confident, *without* Offence to the most consummate Modesty, *without* Offence to the Laws of God or Man, *without* incurring the least Censure from others, nay, *without* the least Cause for censuring herself; *without* making herself known even to the very Person with whom she shall converse, unless by her own Choice; *without* being confined on any Pretence whatever one Moment longer than she likes; hold Conversation, and be in Company, with a Gentleman for two Hours, on the Terms of serious, and honourable Interview, in order to satisfy her Judgment, whether such Person, with whom she shall so converse, be worth her farther Notice; and be of such *Fortune, Disposition, or Person*, as she should chuse to make her an Husband.

We are very sensible, that the bare Mention of a Proposal of this kind is, from its Subject-matter, but too liable to be treated with Ridicule by those of both Sexes, whose Market, as we usually say, is already made; and with Sneer and Indecency by the intriguing and rakeish Part of the World; and perhaps also with Disapprobation, and affected Contempt, for Company-sake, or the better to obviate any Suspicion of being any-ways concerned, by those very Persons, who in their Hearts may be Well-wishers thereto; and, when they have duly considered of the Whole, will not think Scorn to make Experiment of their Success this way; when they are convinced, as we think



they must be, by the following Scheme, that the Whole is contrived, as effectually as possible, for the Preservation of their *Honour, Modesty, and Reputation.*

The Notion of a young Lady's so much as being willing to be married, and much more the making use of any Efforts towards it, we know, is a very popular Subject for Joke and Ridicule; for the Supposition is, that every Lady has it in her Power to command her Man whom, and when she pleases: And therefore, tho' an Offer be made ever so much to her Liking, she is still to be a great Admirer of a Single Life; not to hear such a Proposal without Blushing; hardly persuaded even to admit of the Address, and to be prevailed upon with the utmost Difficulty to consent and fix the Day, after a long Attendance, and the greatest Solicitation: And why all this? but to conform herself to those rigid, and absurd Rules of Mock-modesty, and Sham-reserve; the Laws of which, were introduced by Romance, and Gallantry, and are still cherished and fomented by Hypocrisy, and Imposture.--On the other hand, we would be far from recommending a bold or confident Behaviour; or, by this Proposal, giving the least Encouragement thereto: But this we really think, a Lady may, without any Impeachment of her Modesty, on an honourable Footing, converse with a Gentleman, on the Subject of Marriage, for an Hour or two, in a reputable House, where she is sure her  
Honour

Honour is safe; and not, from the most severe of her own Sex, incur the Imputation of either Levity, or Imprudence.

The most decent, and modest, as well as most eminent, and excellent, of our own Dramatic Writers, and who knew no less what the genuine, and proper, than the natural, and real Character of a good and virtuous Woman ought to be, seems, according to the best of our Remembrance, in all his Exemplars of the Amiable or Lovely, to have avoided, as much as possible, any thing of the Artful, Cunning, or Capricious, in the Carriage and Deportment of his Ladies that are worth a Straw: But, on the contrary, where his *Portia's*, *Miranda's*, *Imogen's*, and many others that might be added, once soberly and judiciously approve the Address made to them, without the least Doubling or Artifice, immediately declare the open and honest Sentiments of their Hearts, and make no Scruple of coming directly to the Point: And we think no one can, with any degree of Justice, charge either of these Characters with any thing like an immodest or unbecoming Forwardness.

If then the fore-mentioned Observations be true; the Design of the following Proposal is no more than, First, To remove certain Restraints and Difficulties, either from the Rigidity of Custom, or Timidity of Temper, the Ladies may be supposed to lie under, with respect to their Treaties with Men on the Subject

of Marriage, Secondly, To give them as many Opportunities as they shall think proper, in order to please themselves in the Choice of an Husband. And, Thirdly, to offer them all the Security they can possibly desire, that such Interview and Treaty shall not be more public, or more known, than they themselves shall be willing to make it---And thus much is thought sufficient to be observed by way of Introduction, *before we submit this Proposal to the Ladies for their candid Examination.*

We now beg Leave to offer a few Words by way of Recommendation to those Gentlemen, who, from their Manner of Life, Dispositions of Mind, or Turn of Temper, may, on their Part, be supposed to lie under certain Difficulties or Discouragements, in regard to their Intercourse and Acquaintance with, or Address to the Ladies; which the following Proposal is calculated to obviate.

Those who are ranked under this Denomination may be reckoned, First, Such as are born to independent Fortunes of Inheritance. Secondly, Those who have been bred to one or other of the Professions. And, Lastly, Such of the mercantile Part of Mankind, as are either actually carrying on Business, or by Success therein, or some other lucky Turn of Fortune, have acquired sufficient to set themselves down, in this respect, contented for the Remainder of their Lives.



It will not, we believe, be denied us, but that the chief and principal End of all the Pursuits of the sober and decent Part of Mankind, with respect to lucrative and worldly Acquirements, generally terminates in those Considerations we form to ourselves, arising from the Prospects of a conjugal and matrimonial Happiness: And, if this be the Case, there are, we may very reasonably suppose, amongst the several Ranks and Conditions of Men before-mentioned, many, who, tho' they have had frequent Opportunities, and could come well-recommended, have either thro' Diffidence, natural Bashfulness, or Fear of Repulse, declined offering themselves where they would have been glad of Success, and suffered the Object of their Affections to be taken away from them by one, whose only superior Merit perhaps was, that he ventured to make the Proposal.

There are others again, especially among the busy and active Part of the World, who, thro' too industrious an Attachment to the Means, have, in a manner, neglected the End; and from leading a Life so enveloped in Business, and the Affair of making a Fortune, have cultivated little or no Acquaintance amongst Women; insomuch that when the Time has come, that they seriously begin to think of marrying, they find themselves at a Loss to know where and to whom to apply, or, in the common Form of Speech, how to set about it.

Every Person, we should imagine, especially in a matter of this *delicate* Nature, would like to be his own Chuser: And tho' indeed Marriages are sometimes brought about by the Interposition and Recommendation of Friends and Acquaintance; yet has this, we believe, happened much oftener thro' a Necessity arising from some of the fore-mentioned Disadvantages, than a free Choice: For there are few but have so much *Delicacy* in their Composition, not to look upon it as a kind of Reflection on their Abilities, to be forced to apply even to their most intimate Acquaintance, to be help'd out in an Affair of this kind; and had much rather, from themselves alone, if it could be so managed, either applaud the Prudence of their own Election, if happy; or, if the contrary, excuse to themselves their own Inadvertency; than, on the one Side, be conscious of an everlasting Obligation; or, on the other, even doubt one's self to be either the Dupe or Fool of another's wrong Judgment, Partiality, or Imposition.

And we dare say, there is no Person that has lain under this Necessity, but, if he would own it, must confess, that he felt many uneasy Strugglings in his Mind, before he could bring himself seriously to break this Matter to his most intimate Friend, besides the awkward Circumlocutions, and strained Apologies, he is forced to use for his Honour's sake, how he comes to be at a Loss to help himself out on so critical an Occasion.

What

What is called the mere Gentleman, such a one we mean as is born to an Estate of Inheritance, certainly lies under fewer Difficulties of this kind, than any other ; as having little else to do than to pursue what Course of Life he pleases : Yet here it sometimes happens, that an unfurmountable Bashfulness, Reservedness of Temper, or too sedentary a Way of Life, obstructs these very Advantages, and renders him a Sacrifice to his own Kitchen-stuff. The *Inamorato* of some clumsy *Thestylis* of his Tenants, or the easier Cully of some cunning Cast-off *Chloe*, recommended to him by a dear Friend (who knows the World) for the best-natured Girl upon Earth, and who will take special Care to lay herself in his way, and relieve his Terrors or Supineness, by making the first Overtures of Address. But if to our forementioned Gentleman be added, a Freedom and Liberality of Disposition, a real Knowledge of the World, with a degree of Politeness and Decorum requisite to form what is called the Agreeable,

*The World is all before him where to chuse.*

Yet again, even here, with all these advantageous Acquirements, things may be so untowardly circumstanced, that

————— *Either*  
*He never hath found out fit Mate, but such*  
*As some Misfortune brought him, or Mistake ;*  
*Or, whom he wishes most, shall seldom gain,*  
*Through*

*Through her Perverseness; but shall see her gain'd  
By a far worse: or, if she love, with-held  
By Parents; or his happiest Choice too late  
Hath met, already link'd, and wedlock-bound  
To a fell Adversary, his Hate, or Shame:  
Which infinite Calamity shall cause  
To human Life.——*

Milt. Par. Lost, L. X. v. 898:

And thus may a Gentleman, with all imaginable Advantages of Birth, Fortune and Education, from Disappointments such as these, spend the juvenile Part of his Life in the honourable, though fruitless Pursuit of Happiness in a married State; may, from a temporary Disgust, retire from the World to take a Breathing-time; and when, again reconciled by a few Years Sequestration, think it expedient to try once more, whether it may not be possible to meet with a Woman better adapted to his present way of Thinking. Besides, in any Circumstances, we do not think it at all improbable, that one who may have experienced certain Disappointments from *Choice*, may be reasonably inclined to try again what Recompence he may receive from something, that looks more like *Chance*, or good Fortune.

To such, whose Affections are engaged, and the Object of whose Choice is already fix'd, and determin'd; or where a Degree of Acquaintance, Intimacy, and reciprocal Liking, has proceeded so far, as to remove those distant Reserves



Reserves that generally accompany the first Advances in Courtship; our Proposal, we own, can be of little Avail, as may be easily gathered from what has gone before; nor indeed is it any Part of our present Intention, to shew off the special Advantages that may arise to any one, farther than will appear upon the Face of the Proposal itself; which, if there are any such, the Situation and Circumstances of each particular Person will much better suggest to himself, than any thing we can pretend to offer: But thus far we may observe, That the Affair of Gallantry, and *French Tendre*, has got such Footing amongst us, even in our most sober Concerns, that we would refer ourselves to any grave and modest Gentleman or Lady, who have come together with mere prudential Views, on the Terms of modern Courtship, whether the first Addressee, on either Side, were not very awkward, and uneasy, and they were not often more inclined to consider themselves as acting a Part, than aiding a serious Business: For the Misfortune is, be the Lady ever so discreet and sober a Woman, and ever so well disposed, this Piece of Mummery she must not dispense with for her Honour's sake. The World---The World---The *French* World will call her *Tramontane*.

The Cause is not surely in Nature, nor common Sense, that a Transaction so sober and interesting as the Affair of Marriage, and which extends its Consequences to the everlasting

lasting Happiness or Misery of the Parties concerned, should be treated with a Levity and Caprice unbecoming the common Occurrences of human Life: And from this Reason principally, we imagine, it proceeds, that the more grave and judicious Part of Mankind (could this Matter be put on a rational Footing) would be often found not less eligible, than that bold and loquacious Tribe, whose Forwardness and Dexterity in Affairs of this kind is owing, either to a certain National Effrontery, or a sputtering *French* Education. For,

-----*In the Modesty of fearful Duty  
Is read as much, as from the rattling Tongue  
Of saucy, and audacious Eloquence.*

*Shakespear's Midsummer Night's Dream.*

It will evidently enough appear, we apprehend, from the Hints already given, to whom the following Proposal is address'd, and what sort of People are intended to be benefited by it: And that the Advantages arising from it, can be few, either to the giddy, fluttering Part of the World, who make Intrigue their principal Concern, or to those Gentlemen whose Estates are not to be found out of the *Blasque* Islands, on due Consideration, will be sufficiently clear.

The Objections to this Proposal, such, we mean, as may be likely to arise in the Minds of the serious and thinking Part of Mankind, shall be reserved as the last things to be considered;

sidered; and we do promise, that if any such occur, or be pointed out to us, which shall, in the least degree, tend to promote *Intrigue*, *clandestine Marriage*, or the *Disbonour* of Families, we shall be far from obstinately persisting herein, but, on sober and candid Conviction, will be as glad to acknowledge our Mistake, think ourselves obliged by such Information, and rectify our Errors, or as readily renounce all farther Prosecution, as we are, at present, sanguine, and solicitous for its Success: For we would be understood to intend no less the Emolument of the Many of both Sexes, who may be supposed, from what has been said before, to stand in need of some such kind of Assurances, as are offered by the following Proposal, than any lucrative Advantage to those concern'd in the carrying it on.

What gave Rise to the Proposal now before you, was the following Story; which the Parties concern'd are so far from looking on, as any Reflection, that they make no Scruple of relating, with a Chearfulness, and Satisfaction, equal to their Happiness; and acknowlege as the most especial Favour of Providence they have either of them ever experienced.

THIS last Summer, I accompanied a Friend of mine a few Miles into the Country, to make a Visit, and dine with an Acquaintance of his, at his Country-house. As soon as we alighted, which was between Twelve and One, we  
were

were conducted into a very pretty Garden; where were the Gentleman, his Lady, their little Boy, about Five Years old, and a Girl, that seem'd a Year younger; and, to say the Truth, I have never met with more agreeable People, nor prettier behav'd Children, in my whole Life. In about half an Hour after we came in, the Lady, with her Two Little-ones, retired to dress herself by Dinner, whilst we continued in the Garden, conversing of various things, till within almost a Quarter of Two; when the Gentleman, looking on his Watch, made his Excuse for leaving us a little while to ourselves, and that he would wait on us again soon.

In his Absence, my Friend and I entertained ourselves with looking about us, and with some Observations on the Happiness, and good Humour, which seemed to me, and he assured me really did subsist between this Couple, and their little Family.

In about a Quarter of an Hour, we saw coming down the Front Walk towards us, the Gentleman and Lady, dressed like Bride and Bridegroom, and both the Children with Favours; insomuch that, at the first View, I took them to be Visitors, come to Dinner in all their Formalities; nor indeed, when I found them to be the Family, did my Wonder much abate; and I began to think it a kind of overstrain'd Civility, to be all so full dress'd out, on our Accounts; a Piece of Ceremony, which, I imagined, might have been well excused.



We had not taken above a Turn or two, when a Servant came, to let us know Dinner was on the Table : And now again my Surprise increas'd very much, when I came into the Parlour, and saw the Servants in new Liveries ; the Table covered with a first Course of Five of none of the least expensive and elegant Dishes ; and, on the Side-table, standing an exceeding handsome Dessert ; and no other Company but us Two : In short, we sat down, and dined as elegantly and well, as any one can be supposed to do on Ten Dishes ; the best sorts of Wines, a fine Dessert, and with the most chearful, good-humoured, and agreeable Family.

As soon as Dinner was over, the Wine set on the Table, and the Servants withdrawn, the Lady filled herself a Bumper of *Burgundy* (which was the Wine, she said, she loved best) ; and addressing her Husband, with a Smile of Satisfaction and Love, that no Art or Dissimulation could counterfeit, " You know, says she, " my Dear, 'tis a Privilege you have given me, " to begin the Health of this Day ; and every " Year of my Life, it is with Increase of Pleasure I can say, Here is Success to the *Daily Advertiser* : " And drank her Glass.

The Gentleman, with great good Humour and Complacency, put the Bottle to my Friend and said, with a Smile, You are to know, Mr. — this is our Wedding-day ; and my  
Wife,

Wife, you see, claims a Privilege, on this Anniversary, of speaking first; by which, I suppose, she would give you to understand, how much happier she is than her Husband; tho' I verily think, if I was inclined to a Dispute, I could easily prove the Advantage on my side.---But, if you will, Gentlemen, be so good as to pledge her, I will farther explain to you this Mystery.

We all drank the Toast given by the Lady, adding thereto the Compliments of the Day; when the Gentleman, turning to me, thus continued:

I was one of those young People, Sir, who had the good Fortune, if it may be so called, pretty early in Life, to be immersed in a great deal of Business, which so ingrossed my Time, that I attended to little else, till I was near Five-and-thirty; when, finding myself intolerable Circumstances, and seeing several of my Friends happy in the married State, I began to think it high time for me, if ever, to follow their laudable Example: But yet the Difficulty was, to find the Woman; for my manner of Life, as I said before, had exempted me from many Opportunities of Choice, in that respect, which are frequent to others, who had less to do in the World; and besides, to say the Truth, when I came seriously to reflect, I could not find out one Woman in my narrow Acquaintance (for very narrow indeed it was), but was either already provided for, or to whom I had not  
some

some material Objection ; and whether it was Pride, or Shame, or both, I will not determine, I could not bear the aukward Figure of applying to a Friend in this Emergency ; so was resolved to trust, in some measure, to Providence, and my own Judgment, to help me out ; and therefore sent the following Advertisement \* to the *Daily Advertiser*.

In about Ten Days (continued he) my Advertisement was answered according to Direction, by a Letter sign'd *Julia* ; letting me know, that if I was a true Man, and no Impostor, and would give myself the Trouble to be at *such a House*, the *Tuesday* following, at such a Time, my Proposal should be taken into Consideration ; and that if I was really in earnest, by asking for Mrs.——I should without farther Ceremony be admitted. I must own my Heart now aaked a little : I was apprehensive of I know not what, and began to feel all those Doubts, Fears, and Misgivings, that I believe are natural to most People, on such an Occasion. I took the first Opportunity of going through the Street, and viewing the House : This, from its Appearance, I liked well enough, and began to take Heart a little : Then I inquired in the Neighbourhood, Who lived there ? and was informed it was one Mrs. —— a Widow Lady (who, I expected,

\* Here he repeated to us the Advertisement, which for certain Reasons we shall not insert.

would have given us her Company To-day at Dinner, and is my Wife's Aunt).

I then went to a Milaner's Shop I found in the same Street, with an Intention to buy something (but what I could not very well tell), and get some farther Intelligence: But however, I there furnished myself with a Pair of Gloves, and Three Yards of Silver Ribband, which I said I wanted for a little Girl of mine, (and for which, by the way, my Dear, you have not paid me to this Hour). Indeed, my Dear, replied the Lady, if you will consider a little, you must, I believe, acknowlege, that, in this respect, we are pretty well quits: For (then turning to her little Daughter, who was standing at her Right-hand, and, in the most cordial and affectionate Manner, stroking her under the Chin) here is a Girl, says she, I have brought you for your Ribbands; and I think, a very good Girl you must confess she is; and I will be determined by these Gentlemen, whether that Debt be not fully discharged.—Well, says the Gentleman, since you plead my Receipt, I believe I must acknowlege my Hand, and confess the Satisfaction.—But, Sir, continued he, I asked the young Woman in the Shop, if she knew Mrs.—and what was the State of her Family? And was informed, that she was a Widow of about Forty; with a very good Fortune; had lived in that House upwards of Four Years, in a very genteel Manner; kept Two Men Servants, and Three Maids;



Maids; saw not a great deal of Company, but those of the most reputable sort; and, upon the Whole, was a Woman of a very decent, modest, and good Character. Now, though these were all very good Things; yet did it not at all answer the Terms of my Advertisement; for I was determined not to marry any Woman older than myself, at any rate.

I then asked, if she had no Daughter, or Niece, or Cousin, that lived with her? Was answered, That she knew of no such. — But, Sir, says the Gypsy, with an arch kind of Smile, Mrs: — seems very well satisfied with her Condition; and, if I guess right, is in no great Hurry to alter it. — I put the things in my Pocket, and thought it now time for me to be going. So home I went, to consider what was best to be done.

This was on the *Saturday*; and the *Tuesday* Evening following, my Tryal was to come on: And indeed, had it been for my Life, I could not have undergone more Solitude: One while, I thought I would drop the Affair, and proceed in it no farther: Again, I accused myself of the greatest Folly and Caprice, when the very End I proposed by my Advertisement, now so fairly offered, to shun what I had with so much Forecast and Consideration sought: Sometimes I walk'd about, conning Speeches; and, I suppose, address'd every Chair in the Room, two or three times over, in the Shape of the Lady: However, it was *Tuesday* Morn-

ing before I could come to a fixed Resolution of going; when I encouraged myself with this Reflection, that if I did not approve the Lady, I could not be forced into a Marriage against my Will; and the utmost that could happen to me was but to look a little silly before Strangers, who could know nothing more of me, than I thought fit to inform them, and whom, if I did not like, I still had it in my Power never to see again.

So that being now resolved, I dress'd, and went to Dinner with our Friend Mr. —— (turning to the other Gentleman) whose Wife, you know, is one of the most lively, agreeable Women upon Earth, and with whom I used at that time to skirmish a little, upon the Subject of Matrimony. And indeed this answered very well; for, what between her Vivacity, and near a Bottle of Claret I drank after Dinner, I found myself in Spirits, fully equal to the Enterprize. So about Six o'Clock, I sent for a Chair, and away I went.

I was now set down at the Door; and, on the Footman's opening it, I asked for Mrs. —— He made me no Answer; but conducted me up Stairs: When ordering my Chair to wait, I followed him. But now again, as I was going up, my Heart began to flutter pretty much, and I own I wish'd myself an hundred Miles off. I was then shewed into a Dining-room, where were Two Ladies, my Wife there, sitting in the Window, and the other Lady

Lady in a Settee near her.—I believe, my Dear, I made as ridiculous a Figure, as you would wish to see.—Indeed, my Dear, replied the Lady, I think my Looks at that time were none of the Wifest.

On my coming in, continued he, they both rose up; and, advancing towards the grave Lady, I address'd her pretty much to the following Effect.

Madam, said I—I believe—I am the Person who have the Honour to be appointed at this Time—to receive to—to receive your Commands.

Here, the Lady desired me to sit down: Which I did: But, Madam, said I—If—If there be—any Mistake—I hope—I hope you will excuse this Freedom; and impute it—to any Cause, but that of giving Offence—which, I am sure, is far from my Intentions.

She civilly bowed, and asked me, If I had drank Tea? I assured her I had (tho', by the way, I had not seen a Drop that Afternoon); for I could not bear the Thoughts of being stared at by the Footman: But this I found could not be avoided; for I had hardly finished this eloquent Speech, when the Tea was brought, and my good Lady, who, to do her Justice, is a very sensible, well-bred Woman, began to question me about the Public Affairs; and, in some degree, relieved the Confusion she saw I was under.

During this Time, we discoursed of indifferent Matters, and I began to get a little more Courage: But as soon as the Tea-things were removed, my Wife (who, I think, all this while, had not let me hear the Sound of her sweet Voice, more than in the Utterance of half a dozen *most significant* Words relating to the Strength or Weakness of her Tea) withdrew; and I saw no more of her, that Visit; and now, when the Lady and I were left quite alone, she began with me, to the following Effect.

“ The young Lady, Sir, you saw here just  
 “ now, is the *Julia* you was appointed to meet  
 “ as this Day, and is my Niece: She is intirely  
 “ at her own Disposal; just turned of Six-and-  
 “ twenty; and her Fortune is so-and-so——  
 “ Her other Qualifications I shall leave to speak  
 “ for themselves, on farther Acquaintance, if  
 “ haply it shall be so agreed between you. She  
 “ is now gone home to her Lodgings, and I  
 “ hope you will excuse the Shortness of this  
 “ first Interview; but, if you have no Objec-  
 “ tion to the leaving with me your real Ad-  
 “ dress, I shall see my Niece To-morrow; and  
 “ if you hear nothing to the contrary, and are  
 “ yourself so inclined, I shall be glad to see  
 “ you here again on this Day Sevensnight, about  
 “ the same Time, when you shall have an  
 “ Opportunity of coming to a more particu-  
 “ lar Explanation.”

The



The ingenuous Frankness, and good Humour, with which she delivered herself, at once dissipated all my Fears; and I could not help conceiving a real Esteem for her, from that Moment.

I told her, that for my own Part, no Objection I was sure, could arise on my side to any thing she had said: And immediately I very honestly gave her my true Name, and Direction.

She very obligingly answered, that her Wishes were for both our Happiness; adding, that, on my next Visit, if so it should be approved, I might inquire for Miss——for that was her Niece's real Name; and that if, in the mean time, I should see any Cause to change my Mind, I might signify the same by a Letter directed to her, telling me also her own Name; ——and then, without giving me leave to reply, turned to the Window; and, taking up *The Adventures of David Simple in Search of a true Friend*, which was about that time published, asked me, If I had read it? adding, that however extravagant the Author's Plan might appear to some People, she herself was convinc'd, there was nothing so very absurd in the Supposition.

I found, from the Quickness of this Transition, that she expected nothing more from me upon the Subject at that Time. So I spun out my Visit for about half an Hour longer, and then took my Leave. All my Tremors and Doubts were now quite removed; and

methought I was as bold as a Lion, and my Heart was as light as a Feather. So home I went, with a very different Disposition of Mind from what I had on the *Saturday* before, and with an earnest Expectation and Desire of the Interview appointed me on the *Tuesday* following.

The *Tuesday* Afternoon came; and I strictly kept my Time, asked for my *Julia* by her true Name, and was now carried into the same Dining-room, where I found her all alone. She colour'd a little on my first coming in; didn't you, my Dear?—But, in about half an Hour, we came to an Explanation, as I thought, to both our Satisfaction, and I obtained Leave for my next Visit to be at her own Lodgings——When the Tea came in, my Aunt gave us her Company, and our Conversation was now as free and unconstrained, as if we had all been acquainted for several Years. I wanted but little Intreaty, you may be sure, to stay the Evening; which I did: And about Eleven o'Clock, I was permitted to wait on my Wife home to her Lodgings, in my Aunt's Coach, which also carried me to my own House.

Things now began to have a pretty promising Aspect; and in short, I think about the Seventh Visit concluded my Wife, as you see she tells you, if you will believe her, a very happy Woman; for, on this Day Six Years, we were married: And I think, my Dear, in all this time, we have not been able, as yet, to agree upon

upon Terms of Separation betwixt us: And now, Sir, if my Wife was not present, I would finish this tedious Narrative by saying,

*Thus have I told you all my State, and brought  
My Story to the Sum of earthly Bliss,  
Which I enjoy —*

MILT. Par. Lost, L.VIII. v. 511.

We thanked the Gentleman for his Story, and again congratulated their Happiness in a Bumper; when the Lady, turning to my Friend, said, From this Relation, Sir, you will think, perhaps, I was of a pretty enterprising, adventurous Disposition; but the Truth is, my Condition of Life was so circumstanced, that it was highly proper for me to marry; and the Retirement I had been necessitated to, gave me but little Opportunity of choosing for myself. So in this Affair I was merely passive, and put myself intirely under the Guidance and Direction of my Aunt, by whose Advice I made the Experiment; and, I am sure I need not blush to say, it was by my own Liking and Approbation concluded.

Just at this time the outer Bell rung, and we heard a Coach stop at the Gate; when the Lady, going to the Window, and perceiving it to be her Aunt, went out with her Little-ones into the Court to meet her; but, instead of coming in again to us, they walked directly towards the Garden; and, as they came under the Window, the Gentleman threw up the Sash, and  
made

made his Compliments to his Aunt; which she returned: When his Lady said, that if he would excuse her, they would take a Turn in the Garden, and dispatch a little Business she had with her Aunt, and then come in to us, or expect us in the Summer-house, and drink Tea there, as we should think fit.

Very well, my Dear, says the Gentleman; and when we have dispatched our Business, if these Gentlemen like it, we will come to you. To this we both readily agreed. So down again we sat to our Wine.

I must own, my Curiosity was now pretty strong to know in what Circumstances this Lady could have been, that the Aunt, who, by the extreme handsome Things he said of her, must be a discreet, sober Woman, could have thought it more prudent to recommend to her Niece an Experiment of this kind, than to proceed in the ordinary Course, by the Interposition and Recommendation of Friends and Acquaintance: And therefore I could not help observing to the Gentleman, that tho' his Method of Proceeding appeared somewhat extraordinary, yet the Event, which seemed so well to have answered it, if one might be allowed to judge in that manner, was a sufficient Justification on his Part: But still my Wonder was, how the young Lady came to have Courage enough to carry it on to an Interview; for that (asking his Pardon) I had always, till now, looked upon these kind of Advertisements



ments in too whimsical and ridiculous a Light to have imagined, they were ever considered, especially by the Ladies, in a serious View; or indeed had ever produced such an Effect as this Relation of his now convinced me they had.

Sir, replied the Gentleman, my Wife has already told you, it was by her Aunt's Counsel merely, that she acted in this Affair, and I verily believe, she gave her no other, than what, had it been her own Case, she would have followed herself; for that good Woman, worthy as she is, has suffered not a little, by adhering too strictly to the Advice of her Friends, as they are called, and too much neglecting to consult her own Judgment.

You must know, Sir, she was younger Sister to my Wife's Mother, who were left Coheiresses, under Age, in the Guardianship and Care of a neighbouring Baronet, an intimate Friend and Acquaintance of their Father's; for their Mother died when they were both very young. Now this Gentleman was one of those wise People, who consider a Woman only as a Skin of Parchment, whereon to engross the Conveyance of so much Land to one's own Use; or as a strained Canvas, whereon to continue the Family Pictures; or as the most legal Method of strengthening and securing so much Interest in a Borough-Election.

For all these Purposes, his Wards seemed to promise pretty fair; and therefore the Eldest  
of

of the Two, my Wife's Mother, he married to a Country Gentleman in the same Interest with himself; with whom she lived about Sixteen Years, and then died, leaving this one Daughter, who was the only Child they ever had: The other Sister, my Aunt, he prevailed with to marry a Nephew of his own, whose Fortune was the only Thing that could be called valuable belonging to him; for by all Accounts he was, to one of the best Women in the World, the most sour, silly, obstinate, and tyrannical Fool I ever heard of: And this Wretch she was over-persuaded to accept, very contrary, I believe, to her own Inclination, in Preference to Mr. —; whose Fortune was, at that time, not so good; but, in all other respects, you know (turning to my Friend) is the direct Opposite to the Character I have given you of the other. This precious Husband of hers continued to torment her for about a dozen Years; and then was so good as to release Her; ever since which time a Second Experiment of the kind seems to have been the last Thing in her Thoughts.

My Wife's Father, for the last Five or Six Years of his Life, was so thoroughly afflicted with the Gout, as hardly, I have heard her say, to be able, above so many times, in all that while, to get out of his own Chamber. He was excessively fond of his Daughter, whose chief Business was to read to him; and he seldom cared to have her out of his Sight: This

Confine.

Confinement, tho' it debarr'd her of many Amusements and Opportunities, which other young Women usually have at her Time of Life; yet had she Prudence enough, I thank God, to turn to some tolerable Advantage, in respect of Music, Languages, and the bettering her Mind.

About Seven Years ago her Father died; and lest she should not be able to provide herself a proper Heir, in case of her own Death, he wisely substituted one for her of his own getting; for, should she have died unmarried, her whole Fortune was, by his Will, disposed of to a young Fellow he had bred up to the Sea; who, returning from the *West Indies*, about Three Months after his Death, was a Rake upon the Town for some time; and then thought proper to marry one of the most profligate, infamous, and abandoned Women in it: And thus, Sir, happily for me, has a kind of providential Concurrence of Circumstances (for so I shall always thankfully esteem it) conspired to make me as happy in a Wife, as I think a Man can well be, who has, or, at least, thinks he has, one of the best Women in the World \*.

\* Many Circumstances relating to this Story are purposely shortened and omitted; for, though it be published with the Leave and Consent both of the Gentleman, and his Lady, who are far from making any Part hereof a Secret amongst their Friends and Acquaintance; yet would it be highly improper, in this public Manner, to point them out so certainly as not to be mistaken.

After

After fitting some time, till we had finished our Wine, and made such Reflections as most naturally occurred to us, and with which I need not trouble the Reader, we went into the Garden to the Ladies, who were in the Summer-house with the Children to receive us. Here we drank Tea, and should have spent the Evening, - and staid all Night, but that my Friend was obliged to be in Town very early the next Morning; for, as to my own Part, I should have readily consented, if it had been convenient for us both; for I never saw, or conversed with, more affable and agreeable People in my Life; so that between Six and Seven, my Friend's Chariot came to the Door, and we took our Leaves.

The several Circumstances of this Visit, you may be sure, furnished out Matter enough of Discourse and Observation between my Friend and me in our Way home: And he told me, that his Acquaintance in this Family had not been of above Three Years standing, and he had never heard this Story before: That no Man bore a better Character, in all respects, than Mr. ———; and the common Report was, that his Fortune, which was very good before, received a considerable Addition by this Marriage; but that he never knew the Lady's Family till that Day: That he had often heard both the Gentleman and Lady mention this Aunt of theirs with the greatest Esteem and  
 Regard;



Regard; but had never seen her till her Coming in that Afternoon.

This Story ran very much in my Head for several Days; when I bethought myself of many Circumstances relating to the following Proposal: And, on my telling my Friend my Thoughts hereupon, and desiring his in Return, he wrote me the following Letter, with which I shall conclude this Introduction.

*Dear SIR,*

**T**HE Scheme, you was the other Day mentioning to me, I fairly acknowlege to you, I thought so whimsical, and liable to Objection, on its first Appearance, that I could not at that time, serious as you seemed to me about it, give you that Attention and Encouragement I wished to do: For, whether it was the Humour I was then in, or the Novelty of the Conceit, I cannot tell; but a Thousand ridiculous Images occurred to my Mind: And, though I think you have no Reason to doubt my real Esteem and Regard, for both your Judgment and Integrity; yet the Earnestness with which you recommended your Project, and the Number of Advantages you so glibly ran over to me, every one of which, you said, you could prove to a Demonstration, must necessarily accrue to the World from it, at once brought to my View the whole College of *Laputa*; and I am afraid, upon Recollection, you had but

too much Reason to complain of your Friend's Want of Candour and Ingenuity.

Nothing less than your extreme Good-nature, and consummate Easiness of Temper, I own, could have borne with me on this Occasion; for when, jokingly 'tis true, I advised you, before you opened your Shop, to consult Counsel, whether this new Method of smuggling Marriage might not render you liable to the Law; \*your ΑΓΓΑΡΕΙΑΙ ΓΑΜΙΚΟΙ, as you called them, whereby you proposed, at a small Expence, if this Scheme failed, to jumble two Lovers over the Stones from *London* to *Battersea*, and back again, into a Liking of each other, and the many Advantages you then reckoned up, and with much *serious Humour* recommended to my Consideration, in Return for my important and friendly Advice, as you archly enough observed, to my Shame convinced me, how well you yourself could distinguish, without *my Help*, between the grave and ridiculous Side of a Question; and I acknowledge, gave me more Compunction for my unseasonable Raillery, than a more grave and solemn Remonstrance could possibly have done. The Imagination, as I have heard you say, is as the Wardrobe of the Theatre, which will furnish out a thousand various Habits, some grave, some antic, and what not? But unless the Judgment and Understanding give these Figures Utterance, and form the different Characters to one Design; what is the Whole but a Ward-

Wardrobe still? *Velut ægri Somnia.* And of this motely Cast, I doubt me, were my Observations when I last saw you.

Thus much, then, by way of sincere, tho' small Acknowledgement, and Apology, for my Behaviour towards you; which, I trust, you will readily admit: Because, where there is a real Esteem for you, as be assured mine is, I know your usual Adage will very obviously occur to you.

Ἀλλὰ μοι εὐαδε χόνδρῳ, ἔς:

And now, Sir, a short Word to your Scheme.

That the same is well intended, I never had any Doubt; but of this to convince the World, may give you some Trouble: For I think you have, in me, a Specimen of the Reception, on the first Appearance, it is likely to meet with. If, when you have drawn up your Proposal, you will give me Leave to peruse the same, you may depend on my Friendship and Sincerity, whatever Opinion you may have conceived of my Judgment. And, as you really profess to be serious herein, I assure you, I will give you no more Cause of Complaint against me on that Score. There is one Piece of Advice, however, I will venture to give you; which is, to communicate this Scheme of yours to as few as possible, and those only of the married Kind: For assure yourself, amongst the unmarried, be it as innocent as it will, and ever so much approved,

D

proved,

proved, in the private Judgment of each ; yet still it carries with it such a Smatch of something like Guilt, as that, in a certain other Affair, those very Persons, who would be the first to commit in private, will be the forwardest to ridicule, and condemn, in public. As to all other Matters, I beg to suspend my farther Judgment hereon, till you have put it into the Form you propose ; and, in the mean Time, believe me, with the utmost Sincerity,

*Your affectionate Friend,*

*and humble Servant.*



## A R T I C L E S.

### I.

**T**HAT two public Offices, as was only before proposed, are now actually opened at two different Parts of the Town, the one in *Newcastle-Court*, near *Temple-Bar*, the other in *St. Martin's Street*, *Leicester Fields* : This called **THE LADY'S REGISTER OFFICE**; and that **THE GENTLEMAN'S**.

*Note,*



*Note,* The Reason for these two different Offices is, to avoid, as much as possible, all impertinent Curiosity, of either Sex; for, by this means, no Gentleman can pretend any Business at the Lady's Office, nor any Lady at the Gentleman's.

## II.

That a Woman Registrar constantly attends at the Lady's Office, and a Man at the Gentleman's every *Tuesday, Thursday* and *Saturday*, from Eleven till Two at Noon, and from Five till Eight in the Evening; to enter, and register, in each respective Office, such Persons as shall think proper either to come, or send, to each said Office, for that Purpose.

*Note,* The Reason for having the Registry open only three times a Week is, because the other Days are intended to be set apart for inspecting the Books (as see Article XI.)

## III.

That Books are kept at each of the said Offices, wherein such Names, Descriptions, &c. as hereafter mentioned, on paying the Office Fee, shall be faithfully entered.

*Note,* The original Books, or Letters sent, are never to be viewed, on any Account whatsoever; but true Copies, according to the Terms hereafter specified, are made out, for Inspection; as in Article VIII. and IX.

## IV.

That on the Register Days, at the Hours aforefaid, the Doors of the faid Offices are kept fhut, and no Perfon admitted, but fuch Party-principal as fhall fpecially defire the fame, in order to give his, or her, own Description and Instructions, by Word of Mouth.

*Note,* As the whole Bufinefs of receiving Letters, and Directions in Writing, and returning the proper Tokens (as fee the Article following) cannot take up more than one Minute's Time; a principal Reason for this Caution, amongft others, is, to prevent the loitering, or curious Impertinency, of Servants, Porters, or other Meflengers, who may be fent with the fame.

## V.

That on fuch Letter, or Direction (as hereafter mentioned) being given, and received, at the faid Offices, either from the Party-principal, or his or her Meflenger; an Office-ftamp, fealed up (with our certain Seal) is always to be delivered as a Token, or Certificate, that fuch Fee, as below, has been received, and fuch Entry duly made.

*Note,* This Office-ftamp (as above) befides its being a Token, or Certificate, of the Fee, and Entry being made and received; is intended, alfo, as an Evidence, to afcertain the Identity of the Perfon, if required by either Party, on any future Interview (as fee the Articles relating thereto;) and is therefore made to correfpond with the Entry, by a Number thereon, to be entered in the private Book, as fee below; and is fealed up with

the Office-seal, as much as possible, again, to prevent Curiosity.

## VI.

That the Entry shall be as faithfully made, on sending a Letter, according to the following Precedent, with the Fee, by a Messenger, as if the Party-principal was present.

*Note,* As an Office of this Kind may possibly excite a prying Curiosity, we think it most adviseable, and recommend it to such as shall think proper to register; rather to send, than come themselves: For unless they gave in their own Letter, and receive the Token, or Certificate, at the Door, as a Messenger, they will be under a Necessity of coming into the Office, and giving their Directions, and Description, by Word of Mouth; which, possibly, they may not chuse to do: But this is submitted to every one's Judgment.

## VII.

That the Fees to the Registry, for the Entry, be One Guinea.

*Note,* If any shall object to this Fee, as too large, we shall not take upon us to persuade them, against their Wills, to be at such Expence: For they are to know, the only Advantage proposed by the Office, to such as shall register, is, to give them an Opportunity of *Correspondence* with any Person, on the opposite List, whose Description they may chance to approve; and if it be so agreed between them, a *personal Interview*, without being liable either to Curiosity, or Impertinence, or being more known than each Party shall chuse; as, by the following Articles, will more fully appear. Besides, it is no less the Interest and Concern of the Parties, than for the Advantage of the Office, to exclude, as much

as possible, the more vulgar and lower Part of either Sex: And as we are determined, that the said Offices shall subsist intirely on their Reputation, and Credit; it shall be our chief Care, that none but Persons of Credit, and Reputation, shall be concerned therein; who cannot be supposed to give their Attendance without some Degree of Advantage suitable to the Trust and Diligence required of them.

*Precedent of a LETTER of Description,  
and Direction to the Office for Entry,  
on the Part of the Gentlemen.*

SUPERSCRPTION.

*To Mr. Green, at the Gentlemen's Office,  
in Newcastle Court, near Temple-Bar.*

Batchelor, or Widower.

|                             |   |                                |                 |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Gratiano,</i>            | } | Age---Height---Complection---- | Fortune, either |
| <i>Tho. White,</i>          |   | Esq;---                        |                 |
|                             |   | Gent. Independent              | well to pass:   |
|                             |   | Profession                     | moderate, good  |
|                             |   | Trade                          | ---or more par- |
|                             |   | Calling                        | ticular, as may |
| Day of the Month, and Year. |   |                                | be thought pro- |
| Fee sent. 1 Guinea.         |   |                                | per.            |

Direct, as by the *second Name*,  
*To be left*---

*Note,*



*Note,* The Reason of the double Name, if duly considered, will appear, we imagine, in this Case, very proper: For the *first*, viz. *Gratiano*, is the popular Name to be entered in the Book for publick Inspection (as see Art. VIII.); but the popular, viz. *Tho. White*, is that by which the Office is, on Occasion, to direct and correspond with the Party; and is to be entered, together with the *Direction*, in a *private Book*, to be viewed by nobody: And therefore is it most adviseable, that *this* should carry the Appearance of a *real and common Name*, so as not, either in the Messenger, or Person with whom it is directed to be left, to excite Curiosity.

*Precedent of a LETTER of Description,  
and Direction to the Office for Entry,  
on the Part of the Ladies.*

SUPERScription.

To Mrs. Thompson, at the Lady's Office,  
St. Martin's Street, Leicester-Fields.

Spinster, or Widow.

|             |                                                                    |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Clarinda.   | } Age---Height--Complection--                                      |
| Mary Brown. |                                                                    |
|             | } Fortune (either special, or general,) as is thought most proper. |

Day of the Month, and Year.

Fee sent. 1 Guinea.

Direct, as by the second Name (*To Mrs. or Miss*) To be left—

*Note,* The same Reasons and Observations occur on this, as on the precedent for the Gentlemen; only we should recommend it to both, that the *Description*, and *Circumstances*, be not so very wide of the real Truth, as that, by an Extravagance in either, they should foolishly defeat their own Purposes, and be ashamed or afraid of any *future Interview*, thro' a Consciousness of not being able, in any Degree, to answer thereto. For be it remembered, as has been observed before, that this Proposal is by no means either calculated, or intended, to promote the laudable Trade of Fortune-hunting.

## VIII.

That Lists from both the Gentleman's and Lady's Registers are now authentically copied out into the Books for publick Inspection, at One Shilling Fee from each Person.

*Note,* Whereas it was in this Article before only proposed, that as soon as "Thirty Persons should have been entered in each Registry, a true Extract should be made out from either Office, and publick Notice given when and where the same might be view'd." The Reader is hereby informed, that our Lists for each have for some Time past considerably exceeded that Number, and been open for publick Inspection at each of our said Offices, where any Gentleman or Lady *as well not registered as registered* may, for the Fees as above, view the same on the Days and Hours hereafter appointed.

## IX.

That no Gentleman shall inspect the Man's Register, and no Lady the Woman's.

*Note,* As no End can be proposed, by any Gentleman's viewing the Gentleman's, or any Lady the Lady's Register,

gister, besides the gratifying an idle Curiosity; and as it shall be our principal Care and Concern, as much as possible, to frustrate and prevent the same, which, if indulged, could have no other Effect, but from the Description, &c. to set People guessing, and foolishly applying the same to some one or other of their Acquaintance; a true Copy, of the different Registers for public Inspection, is therefore opened at each opposite Office; that is to say, the Copy of the Gentleman's Register to be viewed at the Lady's Office, and the Copy of the Lady's at the Gentleman's.

## X.

That the *Direction*, together with the *second Name* (as see Precedents) be always entered in a *private Book*, to be viewed by no Person whatever.

*Note*, The first Name *only*, as has been observed before, is that which, together with the Description, and other general Circumstances, is to be copied out in the Books for View; and on the Inspection-days, at the certain appointed Hours for the same, our Keepers of Inspection constantly attend at each Office for that Purpose; where the Doors are always open; and any Gentleman or Gentleman, at the Gentleman's Office, and any Lady or Lady's at the Ladies Office, (for the Fee, from each, above-mentioned,) may examine the said Books, but take no Copy thereof.

## XI.

That on *Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays*, from Eleven till Two in the Forenoon, and from Five to Seven in the Afternoon, the Books are open, for Inspection.

*Note*,

*Note*, There are four different Books for Inspection provided, at each of the said Offices, to prevent Delays, as Occasion may require.

## XII.

That if any Gentleman, or Lady, on looking over their opposite Registers, shall approve of any Description, and Circumstances, as there entered, so as to desire an Interview with such Person; on sending a Letter, directed to the said Office as above, and subscribed by his or her *second* Name, or *popular* Name, with the *Number* on the Stamp before the Date, of such Request; the same shall be immediately communicated to such Lady or Gentleman, and his or her Answer thereto, transmitted, as soon as received.

*Note*, It has been before observed, that, on each Person's registering, an *Office-stamp* shall be delivered to them, sealed up, &c. on which Stamp, at the lower Part thereof, will be a *Number*, to correspond with the like, to be entered in the *private Book*, together with each Person's *second Name*, and *Direction*: Therefore, in order to ascertain the Identity, and be an Evidence to the Office, that such Person is really registered, it is required, that such Letter, desiring an Interview, be subscribed either with the *second Name*, or with the *popular Name*, and *Number*; to prevent Mistakes, or Impositions.

If any Gentleman, or Lady, shall chuse to make such Proposal for *Interview*, merely of themselves, without the Interposition of the Office, and will send such their Letter of Proposal, sealed, and inclosed, with *Instructions* to have the



the same forwarded, and such *Instructions* evidenced, by the *Subscription* and *Number*, as above, so as that the Office may be ascertained the same comes from a Person duly registered ; their *Inclosed* shall be properly directed to such Gentleman, or Lady, as desired ; and forwarded, immediately, by paying, or sending to the Office, together with the said *Instructions*, and *Letter inclosed*, a Shilling Fee.

## XIII.

That if any Gentleman, and Lady, shall agree to an *Interview*, unless otherwise settled between themselves ; by signifying the same to the said Office, a *private House*, of *Reputation* and *Credit*, shall be prepared, for such *Interview*, and signified to both Parties, according to the Terms and Conditions in the subsequent Articles.

*Note*, If any Gentleman, and Lady, chuse to carry on their Correspondence, without the Interposition of the Office, farther than concerns the *Direction*, and sending their Letters ; they may do the same, as above, for the Expence of One Shilling each Letter, till they think proper to make themselves more particularly known to each other : But if the Aid of the Office be desired herein, due Preparation shall be made, and signified, as in this Article mentioned ; for which Purpose, Six different Houses are retained, in different Parts of the Town, kept by *reputable* Persons ; who, before this Proposal take Effect, shall enter into Engagements with the said Office, strictly to observe the Articles and Conditions appointed for such *Interview*. *Vid.* Minutes and Matters for further Information herein.

Furthermore, if any Person shall send his or her Request, for *Interview*, to the said Office, authenticated as above,  
to

to be communicated to the contrary Party from the said Office; such Request shall be made, and sent accordingly; and the Answer thereto returned, as soon as received, without *Fee* or *Reward*: And that such original Request, for *Interview*, remain in the Office, to be seen by no one. But a Copy of the same, under the *popular Name*, shall be sent to the Party; and the *second Name*, if such be subscribed, and also the *Number*, to be omitted: For by the *popular Name*, *Description*, and *Circumstances*, as they stand in the Book for *public Inspection*, any Person may judge whether they approve of such *Interview* proposed.

## XIV.

That such *Interview* be only from Seven o'Clock to Nine in the Evening.

*Note*, These Hours are appointed, as the most convenient to avoid Observation; especially in the Winter: But still, if, by Consent of Parties, any other two, either Morning, or Afternoon, be desired, so as that the same expire before Nine at Night, unless good Cause to the contrary; we shall readily comply therewith.

Tho' all the Houses, to be appointed for *Interview*, shall be truly *reputable*, and of good *Credit*, and kept by *reputable* and *creditable* Persons, as before-mentioned; yet, as the knowing of *such* can be of no Use to any, but *Persons concerned*; we think it not adviseable, or prudent, to point out the same, in any public Manner: And, on the Designation of any such House, if either of the Parties have any Objection thereto, as being situated, or kept by Persons, *where*, or *by whom*, they may be in any Likelihood of being known; the same shall be altered to some other more convenient: Also, the *Gentleman*, on such *Interview*, is expected, to be at the Place of Appointment, at least a *Quarter of an Hour*, before the Lady; unless she shall direct to the contrary, and chuse herself to be there first.

That

That on each Party's coming to the said *House*, and knocking, or ringing, at the Door thereof; a *Guard*, appointed for this Purpose, shall be ready to open the same; and, on only mentioning to him *the Number* they bear, on their *Office-stamp*, shall be immediately admitted, and conducted into the Room set apart for such *Interview*; and no Questions asked, or any other Person seen.—If the Lady on such *Interview* shall apprehend any Necessity thereof, and ask for the same, a small Hand-bell shall be delivered to her by the Guard on her first coming in: And if the Parties chuse it they may be attended with Coffee or Tea, or both, by the said Guard for Half a Crown Fee.

## XV.

That the *Room*, where such *Interview* is had, shall have neither *Latch*, *Lock*, *Bolt*, nor *Bar*, on the Door; but a *Draw-pulley* only, fixed thereon, to keep the same shut to; and shall be handsomely furnished, and prepared with a good Fire, and Candles, by the Time appointed.

*Note*, By being thus particular, in this Article, we mean only to obviate, as much as we can, the least Suspicion of any Opportunity given, for the Business of carrying on any immodest or intriguing Purpose, or Correspondence. For tho' this whole Proposal be calculated for an *Undiscoverable Privacy*; yet is it no less our principal Concern, to prevent, and hinder, as much as possible, the least Degree of *Rudeness*, or *Indecency*, of any Kind whatever.

## XVI.

That the *Guard*, during such *Interview*, shall be constantly *within Call*, and not depart, or be sent away, till the Time expired, on any Account.

*Note*,

*Note, Our Guard, on such Occasions, it shall be our greatest Care to have, as well civil, and well-behaved, as honest, vigilant, dauntless, and faithful to the Purposes he is appointed; which are, as was hinted before, to prevent, as much as possible, any impertinent Curiosity, from without, and any Rudeness, Indecency, or unbecoming Liberties, offered to be taken within: And therefore our said Guards, so to be employed, shall enter into Security, for their good Behaviour, and faithful Discharge of Duty to the Office, in a Depositum of Five Pounds, to be forfeited on any Breach of the same: Which Depositum, on Complaint of either Party, to the said Office, of Remissness, Rudeness, or Incivility of such Guard, by Affidavit thereof made, before any of his Majesty's Justices of Peace, and transmitted to the said Office, shall be forfeited, and paid by the Office-keeper of the Gentleman's Office, or Lady's, to such Person complaining, or his or her certain Order, signed by their second Name, and Number within Fourteen Days after such Complaint and Affidavit transmitted; and such Guard for ever discharged.*

And now, because some Difficulty may perhaps appear, in the making such Complaint *effectual*, and *satisfactory* to the Office; and may, therefore, be supposed to be added, for a Colour only: We think it incumbent on us to point out, in what Manner such Complaint, and Affidavit, may be so *securely* made, by any Person, as to run but little Danger of making themselves known, and be yet a *sufficient Evidence* herein. As thus:

First, Let such Person, who has Cause of Complaint, write the same within *Four Days* of the *Interview*, and send it to the Office, signed with their *second Name*, and *Number*, as above, and marked at the Top thereof with the Letters *A, B, C, or D*, or any other Mark, by which the *Identity* thereof may be ascertained by the *Affidavit*.

Then let him or her, go before one of his Majesty's *Justices of Peace*, and make *Affidavit*, in *Writing*, to the Effect following, viz.

*That*



*That all the Matters and Things, alledged and deduced in a certain Paper Writing, bearing Date the \_\_\_\_\_ Day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the Year of our Lord \_\_\_\_\_ subscribed with the Name \_\_\_\_\_ marked at the Top thereof with the Letter \_\_\_\_\_ and on the \_\_\_\_\_ Day of \_\_\_\_\_ sent, received, and now remaining in \_\_\_\_\_ Office ; are strictly and concientiously true, without Covin, Fraud, or Collusion.*

*Witness \_\_\_\_\_*

Or, otherwise, if any Person chuse rather, let them, as before, write their Complaint, and *seal up* the same, and then make *Affidavit* to the Truth of the Matters therein contained ; and, *annexing* the said *sealed-up Paper*, signed on the *Outside* by the *Justice's Clerk*, to the *Affidavit*, to ascertain the *Identity* of the same, they may transmit *both* to the Office together, and the same shall be taken as Evidence.

And whereas the *true* and *real Name* of the *Juror* must be subscribed, and their *Parish*, and *Place of Abode*, are most commonly specified in *Affidavits*, and cannot well be omitted on drawing, and making the same : In order, therefore, to keep themselves still unknown, to the said Office, or any other ; such Person shall be at Liberty, to erase, or obliterate such *Subscription*, or *Specification*, before sending it to the Office ; and the same Regard, and Credit, shall be paid, and given thereto, as if no such Rasure or Obliteration had been made. And thus far we think proper to make ourselves accountable for the Behaviour of our Servants ; which, on our Part, shall be punctually observed, on such Occasions. For we are very sensible, of how much Importance it is, both to the Office, and the Persons concerned, that strict Decency, and Civility, be preserved on all Hands ; and all impertinent Curiosity prevented,  
and

and avoided. And for further satisfaction herein, *vid.* Minutes and Matters.

And now, after such *Complaint*, and *Affidavit*, made and sent as above, such Person may draw an *Order*, signed with his or her *second Name*, on the Office, for the said *Forfeiture*, which shall be honoured; the Person who brings the same for Acceptance, going before a *Justice of Peace*, and making Oath, *That he knows, and is well acquainted with the Drawer of such Order, and verily believes Him or Her, to be an honest and just Person; and would not, on any Account whatever, be guilty of taking a false Oath, to cheat or defraud any one.*" And hereupon, Three Days of Grace being given, if, on Inquiry, such *Compurgator* appear to be a creditable, reputable Person; the said *Forfeiture of Five Pounds* shall be punctually paid, and no Questions asked, or farther Inquiry made. And hereto, I think, there can be no Objection: For, surely, it is but reasonable that we, on our Part, should have thus much Satisfaction of the Credit and Reputation of the Drawer, that we are not imposed on.

Furthermore, if any Enormity, within the Conscience of the Law, be, on any such Occasion, committed; the same shall be prosecuted, at the Expence of the Office, in such Manner as the Party aggrieved, or his or her Counsel, shall direct; and no Method omitted, to bring such Offender to Justice.

## XVII.

That the Lady, on such *Interview*, shall be at Liberty to come in a *Veil*; which is not, against her Consent, to be taken off, on any Account whatever.

*Note*, If any Rudeness, of this, or any other Kind, be offered, or attempted, by any Gentleman, during such *Interview*; our *Guard* has strict Orders, on being called, immediately to interpose; and if the Lady shall so insist thereon, is to see that such Gentleman immediately leave the

the House : And the said *Guard* shall, moreover, be obliged, for a *Shilling Fee*, if *one Mile*, and *Half a Crown*, if *more*, to attend such Lady's Coach, or Chair, as she shall think fit, to any House, at any Part of the Town she shall direct ; to prevent her being dogg'd, or insulted. And hereof our said *Guard* is not to fail, on the *Forfeiture* as above ; due Complaint being made.

And whereas, on such *Interview*, it may so happen, that a Lady may meet a *near Relation*, or *Acquaintance*, to whom she would not care to make herself known : On any such Discovery, she shall be at Liberty to retire into another Room ; and, by giving Orders to the Person on *Guard*, a Coach, or Chair, shall be called for her, and Notice given to such Gentleman, that the Lady will no more return : Whereupon, he may order, also, a Coach, or Chair, for himself ; or go in what Manner he shall think fit. If the Gentleman go first, the *Guard* shall be obliged to attend the Lady, if so required, for the Fee, and for the Purposes, as above-mentioned : But if the Lady go first, no such Occasion can require ; only the *Guard* is to take care to conduct her to her Coach, or Chair, without the Observation or Privy of the said Gentleman ; who, in *this Case*, and all *others*, unless he chuses to go first himself, shall be obliged not to depart, till such Lady's Coach, or Chair, has been gone from the Door with her at least Five Minutes.

### XVIII.

That the Gentleman, on such *Interview*, either come without, or leave his *Sword* with the Person on *Guard* ; who shall deliver the same to him again, on his Departure.

*Note*, Tho' we do not apprehend any Danger, or Inconvenience, from any Gentleman's keeping on his *Sword* ; yet his delivering it to the *Guard* is some Evidence, that he means to conform himself to Rules ; and is, besides, considered as a Pledge and *Depositum*, that, unless

less he chuses to go before the Lady, he will stay till her Coach, or Chair, be departed from the Door Five Minutes, at least, before he will require the same to be re-delivered.

## XIX.

That if any Gentleman, or Lady, thro' Wantonness, or Levity, either make, or accept such Appointment for *Interview*, and without sufficient and reasonable Cause, or timely Notice given to the Office, whereby he or she may be made acquainted therewith, break the same; such Person's Entry shall be immediately struck out of the Register.

*Note*, Here we have noother Observation to make, but that, if this Article should be thought useles, or superfluous; we hope it will always remain so: For we mean no more by it, than to take all the Care, in our Power, that the same Person shall not indulge themselves in such Folly, and Wantonness, more than once, if we can help it: And, truly, any one must have a very extraordinary Spirit for Fooling, that can think it worth their while to be at a Guinea Expence, only for the Pleasure of disappointing they cannot tell who.

## XX.

That the *Fee* for such *Interview* be *Half a Guinea*, to be paid to the *Guard* by *each Person*, on his and her first coming in.

*Note*, This *Fee*, we think, cannot be objected to as unreasonable, when it is considered, that all Letters, Instructions, and Directions, on both Sides, previous to such *Interview*, are to be received, observed, and forwarded,



warded, without *Fee*, or *Reward*; and that the Expences of the *House*, and *Guard*, as we are determined to make use of none but such as are both *reputable*, and *faithful*, are to be gratified, and paid, as such.

## XXI.

That if any Gentleman and Lady, on such *Interview*, agree on a *second*; by giving due Notice thereof to the *Guard*, of such their Agreement, they shall, for the *Fees as above*, be accommodated as before.

*Note*, If any such Agreement, for a *second Interview*, be had between them, and, at the same time, any Objection to the *Guard*, or *House of Interview*, or any other *Matter*, or *Circumstance*, relating thereto, arise, so as that they should chuse to have any *Alteration*, or *Change*, of either; on each Party signifying such their Desire to the Office, the same shall be either, or both, changed, without assigning any Cause, but such their Desire; and Notice thereof given to both Parties. And if, after such Agreement to a *second Interview*, either of the Parties shall think fit to waive the same; on Notice given thereof, to the Office, the same shall be forthwith communicated to the other Party, without *Fee* or *Reward*.

## XXII.

That not more than a *second Interview* be had, by the Aid and Interposition of the Office, between the same Parties.

*Note*, It is not very likely that more than a *second* will be ever required: For on such *Interview* where two Persons are really and soberly in earnest, it might be reasonably expected, that the *third* should be either at the

Lady's own House, or, at least, such as they may agree upon between themselves : And therefore, unless better than mere lucrative Cause be shewn, on both Sides ; we shall, after a *second Interview*, hold our Office fully discharged ; for we would be understood to lend our Aid, herein, no farther than to give both Parties an Opportunity of proving how far each may be acceptable to each, so as that an honourable and fair Occasion may be offered, on either Side, for any future Proposal of Marriage. For the Intention of our Office is not to continue an Intimacy, but to begin an Acquaintance.

## XXIII.

That no Person be permitted to register under the Age of Twenty-one, unless Widow, or Widower.

*Note*, Here it will be natural enough to ask, How we shall know a Person's Age ? For may they not send what Age, Description, and Circumstances, they please ? To this it is answered ; We mean, only, that none such shall be registered : For, doubtless, we are full as liable to be imposed on, in this Particular, as any Faculty-office for Marriage-licences whatever. But with our Privity and Knowledge no such Thing shall be suffered, and this is all we can promise ; but cannot take upon us to say, that an artful, or cunning Person, shall not make an ill Use of the Opportunity here given them, more than they may of going to Church, or other innocent or lawful Assembly. But this we will be answerable for, That no one shall, with our Consent, or Furtherance, carry on any unlawful or clandestine Purposes, under any other Pretext but that of a fair and honourable Transaction ; and this is as much as the most prudent, circumspect, and careful Parent or Guardian can engage. For we here repeat it again, That we desire our Office to subsist no longer than it shall maintain its Honour, and strict Adherence to the Rules of Decency and Sobriety,

briety ; from which, whenever we depart, we neither ask, or expect, any Favour from the Public. It may possibly also be asked, How shall I be ascertained of the Truth of such Age, Description, and Circumstances, as registered, so as I be not impos'd on ? We answer, Be not impos'd on ; for this is your own Concern : Ours is no more than to open an Opportunity of *Interview*, by your own Consent, in order to lay the Foundation of farther Satisfaction herein : For the bare meeting, implies no Necessity of your marrying against your Liking, and Approbation. Therefore if the Age, Description, &c. do not answer, you are still at Liberty ; your Curiosity has been, without Hazard, gratified ; and should you not approve, you may, if you please, complain that your Time and Money are thrown away : But we cannot help it. For you are to remember, we are accountable for nothing farther than the *Privacy*, *Decency*, and *Decorum*, of such *Interview*.

## XXIV.

That any Parent, Uncle, or Brother, shall be at Liberty to register a Daughter, Niece or Sister, if above the Age of Twenty-one Years, provided the private Direction for future Correspondence be to themselves.

*Note*, As our Books are not without Precedents of the Kind above specified, we thought it not unadvisable to subjoin this additional Article ; for by this Means even the *Delicacy* of a Lady's Inclinations need receive no Embarrassment from the mere Consciousness of what is going forwards, till all Preliminaries have been adjusted and settled by the Prudence and Management of the Parent, the Gentleman's Address recommended to her with their Approbation and Consent, the Marriage solemnized, and the Husband himself shall think proper to make the Discovery. And tho', under these Circumstances it might not have been altogether improper or of

evil Consequence to have suffered and admitted Registries of Daughters or Wards of any Age, yet as we would avoid as much as possible the least Appearance of Offence, we determine, knowingly to have nothing to do with Minors on any Consideration whatever.

## XXV.

That the Fee for *Re-entry* be Half a Guinea,

*Note*, If any Person shall chuse to change his or her popular Name or Description, or any other Matter or Thing copied out in the Books for Inspection, as Circumstances shall alter, such Gentleman or Lady, by Letter authenticated as above, signifying their Pleasure therein, shall be registered and entered over again according to such their Directions, by sending, with the said Letter Half a Crown Fee, and their first Entry erased. And if on any Change of Mind, Alteration of Circumstances, intermediate Courtship or Marriage, any Person shall desire their Entry to be quite erased, the same shall be punctually complied with, on due Notice given, on both Books, without Fee or Reward. But if at any Time after such Erasure the same Person shall again desire to be registered either a-new or as before, the same shall be complied with for the Fee as in the Article above.

Moreover, if any Person see Cause to alter or change his or her second Name, Number, or Direction for Correspondence enter'd in the private Book (as see Precedent and Note, on Art. VII.) by Letter as above, and One Shilling Fee therewith, the same shall be altered or changed as required, and observed accordingly.

## XXVI.

That such as thro' the Aid, Assistance, and Interposition of our Office shall marry, are desired



fired to send, together with their Instruction for the Erasure of their Names, Descriptions, &c. some Acknowledgment from either Party to each of the said Offices, as a Present to the Proprietors,

*Note,* This Article we desire may not be considered as any Demand we pretend to make, nor is the same inserted with any lucrative or sordid Views; but as a small Memorial from each in this Case would be a particular Satisfaction to us; so, on the other Hand, the Parties we imagine on such Occasion could not be averse to so small an Acknowledgment, as some Thing or other of the Value of a Crown from each, as a Token of their Approbation and Encouragement.

AND thus have we laid before you a Plan of our Design: And now, how well the same is calculated for the Service and Advantage of those for whom it is intended, must be submitted to every one's private Judgment. We say *private Judgment*, because we are well aware, how few there are, of either Sex, who will venture to avow their Approbation hereof, how much soever it might be to their Liking: And therefore, as we profess ourselves *serious* herein, we have, in this Manner, made our Address solely to the *serious* Opinion of others, before we offered to put our Scheme in Execution; that we might have been well advis'd, either how far the same was productive of any evil, or bad Effects, and so totally laid aside; or have received any Addition, or Alteration,

for the better and more effectually answering the Purposes hereby intended. But as to the whole Tribe of Bams, Conundrums, Jokes, Carawitchits, Witticisms, ridiculous Allusions, quaint Metaphors, Ironies, Sarcasms, Bon Mots, Puffs, Ribaldry, Scurrility, or, if there be any other Species of ridiculous Buffoonry, by which what is serious may be turned to Farce; this we shall neither be at the Trouble of answering, or taking any Notice of; for we know, already, how much the Subject itself will be a Temptation to Things of this Kind; and, were we so dispos'd, could be as merry, on the Occasion, as another; and, for Company's sake, possibly may: But, at present, we would be willing to postpone the *Dance*, till after the *Serious Council*. For nothing, but what has a Cast of this Kind, either public, or private, shall meet with a suitable Regard from us, or grateful Acknowledgement,

#### OBJECTIONS answered.

BUT now, to put you in mind, once more, of our Title-page, and (as we promised) to take some Notice of such Objections as are most likely to occur, on the first Perusal hereof.— This Proposal we have called *Serious*, because both the Subject, and Predicate, we think, may well deserve such Consideration; for a very moderate Degree of Observation is sufficient to convince any Man of how much Importance it is,

is, to his future Happiness, to make the best Use of his Judgment, and be more than ordinarily careful and solicitous, in a Concern that, in all human Probability, will be the Foundation, on which his most interesting Hopes and Expectations, in this World, are to rest.

— ὦ δ' αὖτε γάμῳ μετὰ μοῖρᾳ γένηται,  
 Κεδνὴν δ' ἔσχευ ἀκοίῃν, ἀραρυῖαν πρᾶπίδεσσι,  
 Τῷ δὲ ἀπ' αἰῶν<sup>ος</sup> κακὸν ἐσθλῷ ἀνιφερίζει  
 ἔμμεναι· ὃς δέ κε τετμῇ ἀταρῆροιο γενέθλης,  
 Ζῶει ἐνὶ σήθεσσι νῆχων ἀλίαςον ἀνίην  
 θυμῷ καὶ κραδίῃ, καὶ ἀνήκεσον κακὸν ἔσι.

HESIOD. Θεοῖ. Ver. 607.

Nor, on the other hand, I should imagine, would any Lady be less cautious, and circumspect, who soberly and conscientiously weighs and considers the Terms and Conditions she must necessarily consign to, before she can become a Wife. This Caution, then, I hope, will not appear impertinent, to such as shall duly attend to the real Purpose and Intent of this Proposal; which (as has been hinted before) is, as much as possibly we have been able, calculated for the Benefit of such only, of both Sexes, of an *independent Condition of Life*, who, lying under any of the Disadvantages and Difficulties mentioned in the *Introduction*, would chuse a married Life, if they could find *fit Mate*, and to open to them an Opportunity, on *lawful and honourable Conditions*, of judg-  
 ing

ing for themselves, how far their reciprocal Approbation might justify and warrant such their Choice. For we have promis'd already, and do solemnly promise again, That no clandestine Purposes (we mean in the unlawful or dishonourable Sense of the Word) shall, with our Consent or Privity, receive either Aid, or Countenance; and this is as much as any one can undertake: But, lest this our Proposal should give Alarm to the Parents and Guardians of Minors, as being an Encouragement to *Intrigue*, *Fortune-hunting*, and *clandestine Marriage*; we think it incumbent on us, for our own Sake, to obviate such Imputation; and, for theirs, to anticipate any such Fears, and Apprehensions.

And first, As to the Business of *Intrigue*, either as to Minors, or others; no End, we think, of this Sort, can well be answered: For if such Intrigue be already begun; surely, under the Caution and Circumstances here prescribed, for each *Interview*, a Meeting of this Kind must be the most improper in the World for any criminal Purposes; where neither Opportunities or Conveniencies are, in the least, apposite: And such Persons must have as little Invention, as Discretion, to chuse to be at this Expence, to meet on such Occasion, under such untoward Circumstances. Besides, what Presumption is there that our *Guard*, who is a perfect Stranger to both Parties, is to be trusted herein? For we are well aware, that none will  
offer



offer at this foolish Experiment, but for the ostentatious Brag of publishing the same ; which, we must know, can do no great Credit to our Office, or the House of Interview ; and therefore, on mere lucrative Considerations, would not be very prudent in us to countenance. So that, in this respect, where an Intrigue has already proceeded to any criminal Familiarities, it is manifest we should apprehend to be neither for the Convenience of the Parties, nor for our great Emolument, to be either aiding, privy, or consenting to the same.

But may not this same Office be made a means of forwarding an *Intrigue*, by such an Opportunity of meeting, and agreeing on *subsequent Criminalities* ?

No doubt but it may ; and so, also, may the most innocent Place in the World : But if the Parties are already come to so good an Understanding, and the Lady be prepared to give a Meeting for this Intent ; we should recommend it to them, not to be at this unnecessary Expence, or foolish Delay : For, for the same Money, at many well-known Houses, in this Town, they may be much more conveniently accommodated ; and, we dare say, much better to their Liking, for any such kind of Purposes.

But still an *Intrigue* may be begun, by this means.

It may be so, 'tis true ; so, also, it may, in your own House, or Garden, at School, at Church, and where not ? And, if your Daughter  
be

be a Girl of this Cast; we know of no Place safe. But a very willing Lass, indeed, she must be, and have a more than ordinary extensive Genius, and exceeding general Turn to Amour, and Gallantry, who could think of being at this Trouble, and Expence, to meet a perfect Stranger, for this Purpose. And such an one would do well to consider, whether, amongst her Father's own Domesticks, there might not be a Person well enough suited to these Purposes, before she tries such a Scheme as this; where the Gentleman, she may chance to meet, might be suppos'd to come with other, and more sober Intentions; and then, possibly, may have too much Honour, and Decency, not to be shock'd, and disgusted, with such a very forward Spirit. Therefore, in this Case, we are sure the public Streets would be found to be the much more obvious Rendezvous.

And now, on these Considerations, and many others that very naturally occur hereon, we imagine, any candid and judicious Person must acknowledge, That this Proposal is but awkwardly contrived, either for the Beginnings, Prosecution, or Conclusion, of mere *Intrigue*, or *Gallantry*.

It might be granted, perhaps, that our Proposal is not contrived or intended for the promoting of mere *Intrigue* and *Gallantry*; but still there is another Kind of *Intrigue*, tho' not so criminal, yet no less *unlawful*, and *pernicious*, than the other; and that is, the seducing  
and

and taking away young Women of Condition and Fortune, under Age, and marrying them without the Consent of Parents, and Guardians; to the great Vexation and Uneasiness of their Friends and Families: And this Sort of *Intrigue*, such Office as here propos'd, might possibly be an *Encouragement* to.

This Objection, we trust, is fairly put; and we hope as fairly to answer: And therefore such *Intrigue*, as here specified, must be considered either as already begun with some particular Person, or intended to be so. If the first, then, certainly, the same Opportunities that gave Rise thereto, might, one may reasonably imagine, be made a means of continuing it, without any such expensive, dilatory, and round-about Way, as for Two Persons to *register* themselves, by Consent and Agreement, for the Sake only of two short *Interviews*, at most; for we allow no more: And as to Correspondence by Letter, where Parties are already so well acquainted, they need not, surely, want our Interposition, or Assistance, in the Direction of their *Billets Doux*.

But suppose this *Intrigue* in a manner begun, indeed, and the Parties want only an Interview, to agree on the Method of running away together; for which Purpose, one or two Meetings, at most, may be sufficient; and then this Office will very conveniently furnish out these.

Such, we do not deny, but it may be made to furnish, but not so very conveniently: For  
if

if our young Lady be so much her own Mistress, as to go Abroad alone, when and where she pleases; her Inclinations, so thoroughly engaged, and Matters have already proceeded to this Length; both she, and her Paramour, must be very poor Contrivers, indeed, to be forced to be at this Trouble, when a very moderate Degree of *English* Invention cannot but supply them with much more frequent, convenient, expeditious, and less expensive Opportunities, for this Purpose, than any our Office can furnish out.

But, still, a young Girl may, by this means, look over the List, and have an Opportunity of meeting with any Man whose Description she likes; if she will but, for that Purpose, register herself of Age; and so begin an Intrigue of this Kind.

She may so, we agree; but this, we apprehend, is not very likely she should do: For young Ladies, under Tutelage, very seldom consider the Affair of Marriage in so abstracted a View; unless, by the Tyranny of Parents, or Guardians, their Lives are rendered miserable, or they are in a Way of being forced into a Marriage odious to them: And then, truly, in such Case, she may think of flying for Refuge and Protection, to any mere Stranger that will take her. But as this Objection begins at Home, were the same to happen, we hold ourselves intirely exculpated.



Thus have we, in some Degree, answered all the Objections that can, we apprehend, offer on the score of Intrigue, of either Kind: For we could, indeed, in such our Answers, have been much more explicit, and full, but that, we trust, enough has been already said, on each, to suggest, to any judicious and considerate Person, a sufficient Apology for our Proposal, in this respect.

But, now, be it remembered, that what we have here offered is, principally, with regard to Minors; for as to such Persons, of either Sex, who, by the Laws of this Land, are *sui Juris*, and in a State of Emancipation; we think it not at all incumbent on us to make any other Apology, or Address, than what has been hinted above; that they be careful, and circumspect, and duly consider what they are about to do: For where the parental authoritative Consent ceases, which, by our *English* Laws, it does at the Age of Twenty one, the Rule then is, *Matrimonia debent esse libera, & non pendere ex alieno arbitrio.*"

From what has been here said, we should be very sorry to be misunderstood as recommending or encouraging a rebellious Defiance, or headstrong Opposition, in Persons of any Age, or Condition, whatever; for we are well apprised, in a Matter of so much Importance as that of *Marriage*, how much our own Duty, and their natural Rights, require that Parents should be made acquainted, and consulted;  
and,

and, no doubt, great Deference is due to such their Advice, and Judgment, herein: But, still, where both the Laws of God and our Country permit us a free Choice, and are ready, with all their Power, Sanction, and Authority, to confirm and strengthen the same; I can never comprehend a Duty, or Necessity, from other than mere lucrative Ends, of implicitly submitting my Election to be determined by the sordid or capricious Views of any Person whatever: For Advice and Consultation, according to our Ideas, implies neither authoritative Force, nor coercive Prohibition.

But as this is a Subject we may, possibly, treat more at large, on another Occasion; we shall proceed no further, at present; but take Notice only of two Objections more, relating our Proposal, and then submit the whole to your serious Consideration.

It may be said, perhaps, That the Office will, without doubt, take particular Care, that no Gentleman, or Lady, be balked of an *Interview*: For that, if a real Person should be wanting, it can easily furnish out a sham one, of their own procuring, of either Sex, to supply such Occasion; rather than the Party shall be disappointed.

If the Sham, here objected, could be of any Advantage to the Office, we grant it would be necessary for us to give some Security, that no such foul Proceedings should be had: But, where nothing is to be got by it, we surely, are not  
such

such impolitic Fools, either to run the Risque of blowing ourselves up, by the Discovery; or be at this Trouble for a mere fruitless Vagary. For if any one will once again turn to Article XX. they will easily be satisfied, that the Fees to the Office cannot well be more than One of the Half-Guineas given, on such *Interview*; as the Fees to our *Guard*, and *House*, will go pretty deep in the other: And, when they are both paid, what great Profit, or Advantage, will accrue to us, by procuring a sham Person, to pay us back our own Half-Guinea, which we must be suppos'd necessarily to supply them with, for the Occasion; or put ourselves intirely in the Power of our *Guard*, by making him privy to the Cheat?

But tho' this Sham might not answer to the Office, frequently repeated; yet, in its Infancy, and at first setting out, it may not be impolitic to try this Experiment, by way of Decoy, to draw in others.

If our Office was of that Nature to be puff'd in the public Papers, and we could advertise our great Business, and Success herein; it might not be amiss: But our Case is otherwise: For *Taciturnity*, *Reputation*, and *Privacy*, we imagine to be our most prudent Method; neither do we know, at present, any better Manner of recommending ourselves. Therefore, in this respect, it would not, we apprehend, answer our End, at first setting out, more, than if we were ever so well established, and had no need

of any such Expedient. And, for this Reason, it may not be improper, in this Place, once for all, previously to admonish every Person, into whose Hands this Proposal may come, That whatever Advertisements, or Puffs, of this Kind, shall hereafter be found, in any of the Papers (for such may be inserted), we absolutely renounce, and disclaim. For our Address, as has been before observed, is altogether made to the *private Judgment* and Approbation of Individuals; and by such, only, it is, that our Office must stand, or fall.

But now, to this same formidable OBJECTION mentioned in the Preface, which, if we shall be thought to have treated in a Manner not quite so serious as the others, the Reader will be pleased to put to the Account of the Subject itself, which is of too volatile and capricious a Nature to be comprised within the simple Rules of plain Reasoning, and too vague and indeterminate for the Quadrature of Etymology, Categoric, Hypothesis, or Syllogism.

And thus then it stands,

That there is, it seems a certain Thing call'd DELICACY, which is an unsurmountable *Objection* to a Lady's so much as acknowledging, to her own Heart, that she is free from all matrimonial Engagements, and should like to marry a Gentleman to whom she has *no Objection*: And farther, that tho' she should have been so inadvertently *indelicate*, as to have made  
this



this Acknowledgement, yet the Shock her *Delicacy* must receive from an Interview with such Gentleman, to whose Description, Circumstances, or Address, she has *no Objection*, is still such an *Objection* in the way of her *Delicacy*, that her very DELICACY is an *Objection* to the *No-objection*.

And now if this be not the real Force of the OBJECTION, let any one try his Talents and see what more he can make of it. For,

First, it is obvious, we should imagine, to the meanest Understanding, that the bare Entry implies no more, than that there is a Lady registered by such a name, who is at that Time under no matrimonial Engagements, and, if addressed by a Gentleman to whom she has no Objection, might, by earnest and ardent Solicitation be persuaded to do the same Thing that her *indelicate* Mother did before her.

Secondly, That the Business is so contrived, that no Person in the World besides herself need ever know that it is she who made this *indelicate* Declaration.

Thirdly, That she is not under the least Necessity of receiving the personal Address of any Gentleman to whose Description, Circumstances, or Behaviour, her Prudence or Judgment have any Objection whatever.

Fourthly, That tho' her *Indelicacy* should have carried her so far as an Interview, yet is there even then no Necessity that such Gentleman, or any other Person upon Earth, should

be made acquainted who this *indelicate* Creature is, or whence she comes, unless herself be pleased to make the Discovery.

Fifthly, That should she even discover herself, she still may be sure this *delicate* Objection can never come from a Gentleman that has registered himself and intreats the Interview, unless he be a Man from the *Antipodes*, who should propose an Event diametrically opposite to the Drift of his own Proposal.

But there are certain Privileges the *English* Ladies have been in Possession of ever since the Restoration, which may be in Danger, we own, of suffering some small Abridgement from the Proceeding we have here recommended : For amongst the many other invaluable Blessings received by the good People of *England* in general, from that ever memorable and happy Event, there is none that demands our unfeign'd Acknowledgements, more than that new Importation of *French* Sincerity, which so providentially freed our Women from the Restraint and Disguise they were, before that time, from the Narrowness of Education, obliged to lay on their Behaviour and Deportment in their Inter-course and Transactions with Men : Whereas now, under the Sanction of the Words *Galantry*, *Politeness*, and *Delicatsse*, have they obtained that inestimable Prerogative of exemplifying as much Ignorance, Affectation, Levity, Hypocrisy and Pride, as their free and uncontroll'd Hearts can wish, without the least Im-

Imputation on their Education, Honour, Constancy, Modesty, Truth or Understanding. Add hereto, moreover, that other blessed Turn in the Constitution of our Affairs, of ever glorious and immortal Memory, by the auspicious Influence of which they have conceived so clear and *commendable* an Idea of separate and independent Interest and Property, and have likewise acquired so much more *liberal* and *free* a way of thinking, talking, and acting, in point of religious Matters than was ever so much as dreamt of by their simple Great-Grandmothers: And for the Glory of the *English* Nation might we venture to affirm, that within no more than three Parishes in one small Part of this great City; there may doubtless be found a considerable Number of young Ladies, every one of whom is as compleatly qualified to make a genteel Figure in the World as the accomplish'd *Cleopatra*, and as free from *Bigotry* and *Superstition* as a *Dutch* Consul at *Japan*.

But now, because we would not seem to exult and carry all before us, as if we thought our Scheme and Proposal beyond Contradiction perfect and compleat, have we subjoin'd certain irrefragable Objections that seem most naturally to arise from the Subject now before us; which, however nugatory they may appear to the Reader's Apprehension, will yet, we make no doubt, find some Capacities and Understandings we'll enough adapted to their Weight and Solidity: For the same Penetration that could so ingeni-

ously discover the Inanity, Wickedness, and Paralogism of our more serious Intentions, will, without Dispute, recognize and acknowledge the Gravity, Truth, and Importance of the following Observations.

First then, there are, we own, two very untoward Circumstances attending the Proceedings of this Office of ours, the *Barbarity* of which are by no means correspondent to the *Delicacy* and Politeness of a fashionable Education—The one is, that in order to the very entering, there seems to be a Kind of Necessity that a Lady should be in some small Degree able to write and read; and if she proposes to herself any End from such Entry, the Correspondence necessary thereto will render this *barbarous* Faculty still more expedient, and lay her under this sad Dilemma—either to acknowledge under her own Hand that her Education has been more illiberal, vulgar, and mechanical than is suitable to the Figure in Life she would chuse to maintain—or to be forced on such Emergency to call in Aid, her Woman, Milliner, Mantua-maker, or Laundress as her Amanuensis—The other is, that it is required she should acknowledge herself above the Age of One and Twenty: And here again is an insurmountable Difficulty, for no polite and well-bred young Lady was ever known to arrive at that Age, till she was compelled to such Disgraccia by the Moroseness of a Husband, or the Rusticity of an Undertaker.

Again,



Again---As the Fame of every Lady's rare Beauty and Endowments is supposed to have been spread over the Face of the whole habitable World, by the Time she is Eighteen Years of Age, the declaring herself in this Manner under no particular Engagement when turn'd of One and Twenty, is either an Implication against the very Supposition itself which the known Truth of the Fact will absolutely contradict, or a tacit Confession that all the Princes of the Earth have not as yet been on their Knees to solícite her Consent in Marriage; both which things her *Delicacy* should by no means admit.

Again---By this Scheme of ours a Lady is in a Manner made to dispense with those Teazings, Vexings, Danglings, Doubts, Disappointments and Anxieties which her *Delicacy* holds her under an indispensable Necessity of exacting from every Man who may be but suspected of any matrimonial Intentions towards her, before it should let her even give him Leave to explain himself on so *indelicate* a Subject. Nor indeed afterwards can she so conveniently inculcate a due Sense of his own Nothingness and Insignificancy: nor shew how heartily he has her Contempt by making him the Subject of her own refined Wit, and the Ridicule and Laughing-stock of her whole Acquaintance, before she does him the inestimable Honour of her Alliance.

Again---By our Manner of going on, the Parties proceed too directly and precipitately to  
Busi-

Business, which *Delicacy* ever did and will abhor as the lowest and most mechanical Thing upon Earth ; and therefore is it that a thorough well-bred fashionable Woman is supposed never to understand herself married till it has been properly explain'd to her by a Process from Doctor's Commons, or a *Ca. Sa.* on the Moveables of her Husband's House.

Again—Inasmuch as Marriage itself is at this time grown into such Disrepute even amongst some of the more grave and reverend Part of Mankind, that a *serious Proposal for promoting it* has been treated as a Thing no less preposterous and absurd than the setting on Foot an open and public Bawdy-house ; and amongst the more fashionable and polite as a thing they are heartily ashamed of, if one may judge from their Carriage and Behaviour to each other, and the Pains and Study they reciprocally take to provide and maintain as much as possible their Interests, Acquaintance, and Attachments intirely separate and apart ; any Intimation from a Lady that she should chuse a married Life, must therefore argue the greatest Want of Taste and Delicacy imaginable, unless at the same time she were to acknowledge it her most convenient Method of prosecuting the Affair of Intrigue and Gallantry with more Freedom and less Reserve.

Again

Again---Should a Lady, from an ill Run at Cards, a sudden bad Digestion, or for the Convenience of more freely and commodiously admitting a Friend to her Toilette, so far dispense with the Fashion of the World, as for the Honour of her Family to determine on a married Life, in such Case the method here proposed, no one, we hope, will think us mad enough to recommend; for first the Husband she is most likely to encounter, by means of the Office, proceeding probably upon a different System, and not much accusom'd to the abstract and transcendental Essences of Things, might peradventure not so readily conceive the Distinction between Gaming and Gambling, and by a Confusion of Ideas commit so fatal a Faux-pas in the Discharge of a trifling Sum as to make it inconvenient for his Lady to be seen in good Company ever after: Might, in the second Place, from either a total Want of *Delicacy*, or an impertinent Solicitation for his Wife's Health, intrude himself into Matters in which he never had the least Concern; and in the last Respect might possibly be *indelicate* enough not properly to consider the Indecorum of stalking into his Lady's Dressing-room without due Notice given, or first sending proper Compliments for Leave to be admitted; which are all so many Things directly against the canon Laws of *Delicacy* and Politeness.

But there is one Objection more against our Office we confess beyond our Power to obviate,  
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and was this our Scheme generally to take Place, would, we acknowledge, deprive the Ladies the greatest, nay, for ought we know, the only Pleasure and Satisfaction the *delicate*, polite, and well-bred amongst them are capable of receiving from the Addresses of a Lover, and for the sole Purpose of which, they are many of them, we doubt not, prevailed upon to condescend a favourable Reception, namely, that highest of all high Enjoyments which arises from the certain Knowledge a young Lady has, of being the Cause of some other Woman's greatest Disappointment and Vexation.

And therefore, on these and many more Considerations of the like Nature we could enumerate, unless a Lady could so far prevail on her Delicacy as not to be shock'd at the unpolite Appearance of naked and undisguised Truth; could convert the Principles of a fashionable Education, into the artless and homespun Precepts of Plainness and Simplicity; could curb the Vivacity of her Spirit by the irksome Consideration of matrimonial Duty and Obedience; could by the uncouth Doctrine of Humility and Meekness, abate a little of that becoming Pride and Self-esteem so necessary an Embellishment in a fine Lady's Deportment and Behaviour; could be contented to exchange the *Douceurs* of free and unconstrain'd Licence and Independence, for the dull, tasteless, and insipid Concerns of domestic Life; there are, we must be



be forced after all to acknowledge, still remaining *these* unanswerable Objections against her registering in our Office.

F I N I S.



Ad-



# Advertisement

## FROM THE PROPRIETORS.

THE PROPRIETORS of the serious PROPOSAL for promoting lawful and honourable MARRIAGE, give this Notice, that the Register Lists of both Gentlemen and Ladies being now compleat for Inspection, according to the Terms of the above mention'd PROPOSAL, any Gentleman or Lady, as well *not register'd* as *register'd*, may, for one Shilling, view the same at their respective Offices, *viz.* The Gentlemen may view the Ladies List at the Gentlemen's Office, *Newcastle-Court, Temple-Bar*; and the Ladies, the Gentlemen's List, at the Ladies Office, *St. Martin's-street, Leicester Fields*, every *Monday, Wednesday, and Friday*, from Eleven till Two in the Forenoon, and Five to Eight in the Afternoon.

At the same Offices, and within the same Hours, proper *Registrars* constantly attend as usual every *Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday*, to receive Letters of *Description*, and make proper *Entries*, and deliver *Certificates* of the same.